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As an Official Journal THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is  
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 in the British Empire.

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## OUR WINTER ISSUE.

THE next number of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST will be our annual Winter Issue, and will have a circulation to the best buyers of druggists' goods, in addition to regular subscribers, at home and abroad. The mechanical production of this number being exceptionally onerous, we are compelled to go to press earlier in the week, and the Publisher asks us to intimate that after

## TUESDAY MORNING

he cannot accept displayed advertisements for insertion in the issue. We therefore urge all advertisers who have not made arrangements for space to communicate with the Publisher at once, and by telegraph if they wish to secure good positions for their advertisements. The Winter Issue is one of the best business-producers for the trade. It appeals to retailers and wholesalers at the time when the renewal of stocks is a necessity, and the business character of the production is a direct assistance to advertising. Although we shall go to press earlier,

## SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

for insertion in the Coloured Supplement will be received up to the usual time on Thursday, but it will be an advantage to us to receive such advertisements as early as possible.

## Summary.

CORRESPONDENTS will note a paragraph addressed to them on p. 83.

FOR the names of new licentiates of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, see p. 70.

CHEMISTS have danced with success this week in London, and at Brighton and Plymouth (p. 69).

THE questions given in the Pharmaceutical "First" examination this week are printed on p. 72.

WE have interviewed Messrs G. & G. Stern (Limited) regarding the breakdown of their anti-cutting scheme (p. 76).

THE failures in the Minor examination have been heavy this month; so also in the Major. We give the names of the successful men and women on p. 72.

THE desirability of drawing up a series of "non-liable" dose labels is again referred to in the hope that the Pharmaceutical Council may take action (p. 80).

SOME interesting and useful notes on pharmaceutical topics have been communicated by Mr. Elborne to the Chemists' Assistants' Association (p. 85).

THE Westminster Magistrate does not consider the addition of salicylic acid to wine an offence under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. This after expert evidence (p. 79).

FROM the examples of Minor examination volumetric work (p. 73), and the comments thereon (p. 83), it will be seen that the action of examiners in this matter requires looking into.

SEVERAL cases of carbolic-acid poisoning are reported. It will be noted that in two of the Coroners' inquiries the necessity for scheduling the acid as a poison was strongly urged (p. 69).

WE have had so many inquiries lately regarding the probable changes which may occur in calomel-powders that we give a *resumé* of chemical and medical knowledge of the subject (p. 81).

TO the Assistants' Association at Dublin Mr. W. Payne has made some pertinent remarks regarding dispensing-labels: what they should be, how they should be written, placed on the bottle, &c. (p. 75).

MR. WILLIAM LYON makes some suggestions on pharmacy topics—viz., the production of a small Bland's pill, and pil. coloc. co. which will not pit. Spt. ammon. aromat. as an excipient is the thing for the latter (p. 75).

OUR correspondence is limited by space this week, but we get in several letters on topical subjects, such as anti-cutting and mutual insurance among pharmacists, also replies to legal and miscellaneous queries (p. 93).

A BRIGHTON firm of chemists have had their cash-box stolen by their bookkeeper, and, following that, burglars entered their premises, emptied two tills, and carried off a safe, in which there was no money. We report other thefts from Derby chemists and from J. Grossmith & Son (p. 68).

MINCING LANE needs a Carteigha. When drug-brokers and wholesale druggists and drug-importers met this week to decide whether the drug-sales should be held monthly or fortnightly, the proceedings savoured of a jumble sale, but ultimately the matter was left *in statu quo ante bellum* (p. 91).

LORD HERSCHELL has, as recently reported, made an able defence of the Imperial Institute and its work. We now indicate what is being done in association with pharmacy to promote the use of colonial economic produce. We note that Messrs. Dunstan, Merck, and Umney have been assisting the Institute (p. 82).

THE Queen's Bench Division in Ireland has refused to grant a mandamus to compel the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to admit to examination a person whose certificate of service was signed by the manager of a limited company. The Court refused the mandamus holding that the regulation was *intra vires*, and that a company such as the one concerned could not be a firm of qualified persons (p. 77).





## English News

*The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.*

### Theft of Barrels.

Thomas Payne was charged at the Derby Police Court on January 9, with stealing three barrels, value 13s. 6d., the property of Messrs. Blunt & Evans, chemists. The prisoner took the barrels from a field on the canal-side. When arrested he said that he had bought them for 3s. from a man on the Nottingham Road. There were several previous convictions, and he was sent to gaol for three months with hard labour.

### Stealing Perfume.

Henry James Cray (20) and Marion Cray (27) were brought up on remand before Mr. Alderman Treloar at the Guildhall Police Court on January 9, on the charge of stealing 50l.; the male prisoner was further charged with stealing a quantity of perfumery, &c., the property of his employers, Messrs. Grossmith & Co., wholesale perfumers, Newgate Street. It appeared from the evidence that the male prisoner was a packer in the employ of the prosecutors, at a salary of 1l. per week, having obtained the situation by means of a false character. On June 22 last an errand-boy in the service of the firm cashed a cheque for 50l. at the Ludgate Hill branch of the City Bank. As he came out with the money a woman stopped him, and said the cashier had authorised her to receive the money, as he (the boy) was to take the parcel she handed him to the works in Thames Street. After some hesitation the lad gave her the 50l. Subsequently, becoming suspicious, he tried to find her, but failed. The parcel which she gave him (containing only waste paper) was packed in the peculiar style adopted by the prosecuting firm, and the female prisoner had been identified by the boy as the woman to whom he handed the 50l. It was stated that the same day the 50l. was stolen the prisoners went to the Hackney Furnishing Company and paid 30s. deposit on some goods. After they were arrested their apartments were searched, and a large quantity of property belonging to the prosecutors was found. Mr. Grossmith said he believed the male prisoner had been robbing him ever since he had been with him. The Alderman remarked that there was not sufficient evidence to convict the woman, therefore he dismissed her. He sentenced the man to six months' hard labour.

### Burglars in Brighton.

On Friday, January 10, an impudent robbery was committed on the premises of Messrs. Headland & Co., 90 Western Road, when a cash-box was purloined by a shorthand clerk who had recently entered their employ, and who has not since been seen or heard of, but for whose arrest a warrant has been issued. Fortunately, Mr. Costerton (the proprietor) had banked earlier in the day, so there was only a matter of 27l. or so in the cash-box at the time of the theft.

On Sunday night a much more daring deed was perpetrated by burglars at the North Street (lock-up) establishment of the same firm. Here the thieves entered by a skylight at the rear of the premises, after scaling a wall and climbing over two roofs. They proceeded deliberately to ransack the manager's desk and the two tills. The desk was forced open, but the only thing abstracted was a cheque-book containing forty-three unused "order" cheques on the Capital and Counties Bank. The two patent tills were in turn wrenched open, and their contents stolen. Then came the *grand coup*, which consisted in the bodily removal of a safe, weighing about 3 cwt., right through the long shop and out at the shop door (the two locks of which were forced) into North Street, the busiest and most frequented street of the town, which is now well lighted by electricity. Fortunately, Mr. Ashton, the managing partner, after cashing-up on Saturday

night, at the end of a heavy day's business, had taken the precaution of emptying the safe, so that, with the exception of some change which was left in the tills and Sunday evening's takings (amounting in all to about 7l.), the burglars got nothing for their pains but an empty Milner's safe. The language indulged in when they came to examine the contents of their big haul can be better imagined than described. It may be mentioned that a gas-jet is always left burning in the shop over the spot where the safe lay, and spy-holes are cut in the shutter to enable the policeman on duty to keep his eye on the property. Events show that this precaution only acted as a draw to the burgling fraternity, who carried out their nefarious plans with the utmost deliberation, and apparently without the slightest interruption.

### A Light and Air Case.

For the last twelve months an action has been pending in the Chancery Division in which Mr. Lucius H. Pellow, chemist, of Holsworthy (Devon), was the plaintiff. In his statement of claim it was alleged that defendant (a draper of the same town) had, by erecting new buildings, seriously darkened, injured, and obstructed the light to, and committed divers trespasses on, the premises of the plaintiff. The matter was submitted to arbitration, the referee being Professor Robert Kerr, of London, an expert in such cases. An intimation was received on Thursday last that Mr. Pellow had been awarded 86l. for damages, together with all costs of the action, reference, and award. Well-known solicitors and architects had been engaged by both parties.

### The Merry Teething-powder Men.

Messrs. John Pritchard & Sons (Limited), Cheadle, the proprietors of Pritchard's Teething-powders, entertained their workpeople to dinner last week in order to mark the success of the year's business under the limited company system, adopted for family reasons, and now largely entrusted to the supervision of the founder's two sons, Messrs. Joshua Granger Pritchard and Wm. Pritchard. Mr. John Pritchard commenced the business in Chorlton Road, Manchester, some forty years ago. In 1873 he erected the handsome premises and shop the firm now occupy at Cheadle, and four years ago the business was transferred absolutely to Cheadle, about which time Mr. Pritchard partially retired and took up his residence at Blackpool. He and Mrs. Pritchard did the honours of the table at the dinner, and 59 sat down. Dancing, games, and music followed the dinner.

### Died in a Chemist's Shop.

An aged woman, named Mary Ann Tuck, died in the shop of Mr. R. H. Ives, chemist and druggist, Ber Street, Norwich, last week. At the inquest, on January 8, Mr. Ives stated that the deceased was brought into his shop, and she complained of her breath and side. He offered her something, but she did not appear to be able to swallow it, and she died ten minutes after. A verdict of death from failure of the heart's action was returned.

### A Harmless Mixture.

At an inquest held at Maryport last week on a Mr. Jabez Dixon, a local tradesman, Mr. John Lyddon Roberts, chemist and druggist, Market Square, was called as a witness, but was cautioned by the Coroner that any evidence he gave would be taken down in writing and might be used against him. Mr. Roberts stated that he should be pleased to give all the information in his power, and he stated that the deceased came to him on the Monday and Tuesday, and said that he had come for something for acidity in the stomach. He did not want to trouble a medical man, and witness made him an antacid mixture. He did not enter the ingredients into his books, as there was no poison in it, and he was prepared to say that the mixture was quite harmless. On Tuesday Mr. Dixon said he was cured of the acidity, but complained of constriction of the throat and a pain down the left arm. Witness told him that he could not give him anything for it, and advised him to see a medical man. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes—*i. e.*, heart-disease.

### Drug-contract.

The Cranbrook Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. Hudson, of Cranbrook, to supply cod-liver oil at 2s.



## Smoking-concert.

The third annual smoking-concert of the staff of the Apollinaris Company was held on Saturday evening, January 11, at the Swallow Assembly Rooms, Swallow Street, W., before a large and appreciative audience. Mr. R. Pain, the manager of the company, presiding. A capital programme was provided, in which the following gentlemen, all members of the Apollinaris staff, took part:—Messrs. Salter, Mardel, Powley, Parsons, Motz, Monk, Davison, Engelmann, Kelleher, Fay, Eastoe, and Clarke.

## Carbolic-acid Poisonings.

Ivan Nieminen, 30 years of age, a fireman on board the steamer *Cholmley*, of Whitby, and belonging to Finland, died on January 4, while being conveyed to the hospital at Leith, from the effects of drinking carbolic acid from a bottle, believing it was whisky.

A man named James Cox, formerly in the Royal Engineers, poisoned himself at Aldershot last week with carbolic acid, which he bought from Mr. G. F. Johnson, chemist, trading as Harris & Co. At the inquest Dr. Jones, who gave evidence, expressed a strong opinion that carbolic acid ought to be scheduled.

A naval warrant officer, C. A. B. Palmer (46), committed suicide at Devonport on January 9 by taking carbolic acid. At the inquest Mr. White, chemist, whose name appeared on the bottle, said he did not remember selling the acid to deceased in particular. He had supplied quantities to men, women, and even children on the same day, it not being a registered poison. The Coroner considered it absurd that some poisons were scheduled according to Act of Parliament, and that there were others—which would cause death as quickly—which anyone could get by asking. He was of opinion that anything that would cause death should be scheduled, that precautions might be taken with regard to their sale. Verdict of suicide returned.

Mr. E. S. Vertue, 21 Onslow Road, Southampton, writes as follows:—"A boy of 9 just now came into the shop with one of the bottles in which Messrs. Goodall have been sending out Yorkshire Relish samples for 'a penn'orth of carbolic.' I said, 'This is not a proper bottle for carbolic; what do you want it for?' 'To take.' 'To take! what for?' 'For a cough.' 'A cough! Do you mean paregoric?' 'O! do-n't know, praps it was.' 'And who's going to take it?' 'Me and my brother, who's 6.'"

## Chemists' Balls.

The thirtieth annual chemists' and druggists' ball took place on Wednesday, January 15, at the Portman Rooms, when 270 responded to the invitations. The music was provided by Mr. Dan Godfrey's well-known band, and evidence of the thorough enjoyment was supplied by the absence of "wall flowers," which was particularly noticed by our reporter. It was the largest assembly for some years past, which speaks well for the energy of the hon. secretary, Mr. J. C. Umney, and the committee, who evidently must have spared no effort to get such a good company together. Amongst those present were noticed the President of the Society (Mr. Michael Cartheige), Mr. R. Bremridge (the Registrar), Mr. C. Umney, Mr. W. Martindale, Mr. Thomas Tyrer, Mr. Idris, Mr. G. B. Francis (Hearon, Squire & Francis), Mr. Fisk (Parke, Davis & Co.), Mr. Brocklesby (Lorimer & Co.), Mr. J. D. Marshall, and others. Supper took place at the usual time, and was presided over by the President, who in suitable terms gave the toasts of "The Chemists' Ball" and "The Ladies," and in a humorous speech referred to the M.C. (Mr. T. C. W. Martin), who had been present on these occasions for the past thirty years; while Mr. J. W. Bowen, Mr. A. C. Preston, and the other gentlemen on the committee, he said, were to be congratulated on the success they had achieved, the arrangements for the ball having been very satisfactory. Mr. J. C. Umney came in for some of the President's eulogies for the able way in which he had carried out his part of the arrangements. This gentleman responded to the toast, stating that 300 tickets had been sold. This caused a good cheer. After the conclusion of the supper dancing was resumed, and all went merry until the "wee sma'" hours of the morning. During supper a telegram was received by the President from the managers of the chemists' ball being

held at Plymouth the same evening exchanging congratulations.

The sixth annual ball of the Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy was held on Tuesday, January 14, at the Brighton Pavilion. The arrangements were satisfactorily carried out under the superintendence of Messrs. Copitt and Blamey, who acted as honorary secretaries, and the following stewards:—Mr. T. F. Grindley (president), Mr. C. G. Yates (ex-president), Mr. A. T. Jeeves (vice-president), Mr. E. S. Gosling (hon. treasurer), Messrs. Crowhurst, Gibson, Greening, Heath, Price, Sadleir, and Savage. The affair was regarded as a decided success, the company numbering about one hundred.

## Stealing a Chemist's Letters.

At the Greenwich Police Court last week, Edith Hunt (19), servant, and Jessie Hunt (10), sisters, of 92 Malpas Road, Brockley, were charged on remand on their own confession with stealing eight postal letters, containing 2s postal-orders and seventy-four penny postage-stamps, the property of Harry Percival Weston, chemist, who carries on business at the house in which the prisoners are lodgers. Detective-Sergeant Brooks said that when he took the prisoners into custody, Edith said, "I have taken the money contained in letters addressed to Mr. Weston for the last fortnight;" and Jessie said, "I took some of the letters and gave them to my sister." Mr. Weston said he had suspected his letters from his letter-box were being taken, and on inquiry at the post-office found that letters had been delivered, which he had not received. There was another charge against the prisoners of stealing a child's mail-cart. Mr. Weston said he had no wish to press his charge. Edith said she was willing to go to a home which had been provided for her. Mr. Fenwick took Edith's recognisances to come up for judgment if called upon on condition of entering the home; and Jessie was remanded for two months on her father's recognisance.

## Mysterious Death of a Chemist's Assistant.

The Canterbury Coroner held an inquest on January 10 respecting the death of Leigh Nash Morgan, a chemist's assistant, who died suddenly under somewhat suspicious circumstances. Annie Morgan, widow of the deceased, stated her husband was aged 30. He had been in the employ of Mr. Griffith, Medical Hall, about four weeks. Before leaving London he had a bad attack of bronchitis. Since he had been in Canterbury he had been very excited, which she attributed to weakness. About four years ago he broke a blood-vessel in the liver, and was ill for months. After business hours he would come straight home and read the papers. He was cheerful up to the day on which he died. On the day he died he came home in the afternoon and went to lie down, and she found him in a dying condition. By the Coroner: Of late he had been addicted to drink. She never suspected him of putting an end to himself. He suffered from great bodily weakness, and took medicine to relieve himself. He used to shake very much at times. He was very irritable. Mr. Charles Griffith, of the Medical Hall, stated that deceased went on fairly till the last week, when he became addicted to drink. He (witness) had heard that deceased took spirits out of the bottles in the shop, and took morphia. Mr. Sidney Harvey, the city analyst, deposed that he had made a full and careful analysis of the contents of deceased's stomach, but failed to find any trace of such poisons as arsenic, morphia, prussic acid, &c. He, however, eventually found traces of aconite. The Coroner, in summing up, said that if deceased had taken enough aconite to destroy life he would not have been able to walk home as he did, and the quantity found in his intestines was infinitesimal, and altogether insufficient to cause death. There was really no evidence to show that deceased had poisoned himself, and it would only be charitable for the jury to find a verdict of death from natural causes. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

## Sheffield Microscopical Society.

At last week's meeting, Mr. A. H. Allen, F.I.C., F.C.S., in the chair, the paper of the evening was on the "Filamentous Algae," by Mr. Robert B. Greaves, F.C.S., of the Sheffield College of Pharmacy. In the author's unavoidable absence Mr. John Austen read the paper, and explained diagrams and specimens. Mr. Greaves had found the majority of the freshwater algae mentioned in the streams about Sheffield.



### The Viavi Treatment.

At an inquest held at Brighton on January 7 on a servant-girl named Le Grand (24), who died in the workhouse infirmary, it was stated that for some time before her death she had been under what was known as the Viavi treatment for anæmia. Mrs. Bailey, the Brighton agent for the Viavi Company, gave evidence. She said the central office was at 52 Oxford Street, London. At the request of the girl's mistress, witness saw her, and found she was suffering from leucorrhœa. Witness recommended her to adopt the Viavi system, and, a lady paying the 3*l.* 6*s.* necessary, deceased was supplied with a quantity of capsules and ointment. Witness afterwards saw deceased, who said she had not kept up the treatment, as it was too much trouble. The medicine, however, had made her much better. It could not possibly have harmed her. She did not know the composition of the medicines, except that they were vegetable, and not mineral. Dr. D. M. Ross, Medical Officer at the Workhouse, said the *post mortem* examination showed that deceased was not *envenomed*. The cause of death was apoplexy, or extensive effusion of blood on the brain. It was extremely rare for so young a woman to die of apoplexy; witness had never met with a similar case previously. As to the medicines of the Viavi Company, although he had seen those given to deceased, he could say nothing about them. Without analysing them he could not tell whether they were harmless or injurious. There were drugs that would cause such an apoplexy as this girl died of. The Coroner asked the jury whether they would have the medicines analysed. After a brief consultation the jury decided that they would not have the medicines analysed, and there and then they returned a verdict of death from apoplexy. The foreman added, "We should like you to caution Mrs. Bailey as to the use of the drugs." The Coroner accordingly advised Mrs. Bailey that it would be better for her not to recommend medicines the composition of which she did not know. It might lead her into serious trouble.



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### Another Appeal for the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. David Wilson, of Rathfriland, who, as reported last week, was fined 10*l.* and 2*l.* costs under the Pharmacy Act for selling Leeming's essence on two occasions, has given notice of appeal.

### Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

**Pharmaceutical Licence Examination.**—The following have passed:—Messrs. W. H. C. Baskin, D. O'Sullivan, C. Crowley, A. W. Mann, J. A. Doyle, J. Walsh, R. A. L. Wilson. Five were rejected.

At the quarterly examination for the licence to act as registered druggist, held at Dublin on January 14, two candidates presented themselves, of whom one, Mr. R. J. Gore, passed.

At an examination for the licence to act as registered druggist, held at Queen's College, Belfast, on Tuesday, January 14, the following candidates passed:—Messrs. S. E. Alexander, D. Forde, I. Kirker, T. K. Scott. One candidate was rejected.

### Unqualified Compounders.

At a meeting on Tuesday of the Euniskillen Board of Guardians it transpired that the nurse was in the habit of compounding the medicines. The Guardians investigated the case, and Mr. Wilson, a member of the board, said the custom must no longer be continued; the doctor must in future compound his own medicines. The master said the

doctor simply wrote out the prescriptions and the nurse compounded the medicines. The Chairman considered the matter most serious, as if anything happened the Guardians would be held responsible. It was resolved to hold the medical officer directly answerable for the correct filling-up of prescriptions.



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### Winding Up an Apothecaries' Company.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the St. Rollox Apothecaries' Company (Limited), held at the offices of the company, 176 Castle Street, Glasgow, on January 6, a special resolution was unanimously passed to wind up the affairs of the company voluntarily, and Mr. John Findlay Stevenson was appointed liquidator.

### Pleasant Evening for Chemical workers.

The annual assembly of the staff of Messrs. T. & H. Smith & Co., Edinburgh, took place on Friday, January 10, in the "Lodge of Edinburgh" Masonic Hall, Hill Street. Messrs. Anderson and Dey acted as stewards, and the duties of M.C. were efficiently discharged by Mr. W. R. Cunningham. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the proceedings were diversified with songs at intervals.

### Smoking-concert at Glasgow.

The members of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Association held a successful "smoker" in the Alexandra Hotel on the evening of January 9. The company numbered about eighty, and the chair was occupied by Mr. W. L. Currie, the President. Amongst the gentlemen who contributed to the entertainment were Mr. Gideon Duncan, of the Glasgow Select Choir; Mr. Bruce and his instrumental band; Mr. W. L. Bowman, violinist; Mr. A. F. Leiper; Mr. John Irvine; Mr. Thomson, of Messrs. Brown Brothers; Mr. Currie, and Mr. Laing.

### Australasian News.

THE following notes are based upon information contained in the December issue of *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* published at Melbourne. Copies of that journal (price 6*d.* each) may be had from the publisher, 42 Cannon Street, E.C.

**THE AUSTRALASIAN PUMICE INDUSTRY**—A company called "The Norton Pumice Industry (Limited)" has been registered in Victoria with a capital of 15,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. The objects of the company, besides the purchase of two registered soap trade-marks and the manufacture of the soap in question, are "to buy, deal in, quarry, and own land in Australia and New Zealand; and to dig, mine, bore, search for, buy, deal in, and quarry pumice or pumice-stone or other allied products, and to use the same either in a crude state or in the composition of manufactured articles."

**OPIUM LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—The South Australian Government are engaged in trying to pass a Bill on the sale of opium. The measure provides that opium shall not be imported except for medicinal purposes. No person may compound, purchase, sell, or supply opium, or prescribe it unnecessarily, or keep a house where opium is sold, or given away, or used, or visit a place where opium is used, or send or bring opium into the country, unless for the purpose of using it as a medicine or in the form of patent or proprietary medicines. Opium must not be sup-



plied to aborigines under a penalty of imprisonment for not more than twelve months. The Governor-in-Council may prohibit the importation or use of any medicine which contains a dangerous or improper proportion of opium. The penalty for a first offence against the Act is not less than 5*l.* nor more than 20*l.*; for any subsequent offence, not less than 10*l.* nor more than 50*l.*

**THE VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.**—This institution, which is under the control of the so-called "Pharmaceutical Society of Anstralias" (Victoria) is in receipt of a Government grant. In a recent sitting of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, a member, Mr. Hancock, called attention to this grant, which he desired to see abolished. The College, Mr. Hancock said, had outlived its usefulness, and might be abolished without any loss to the community, most of the functions of the College being now performed by the University of Melbourne. (The Pharmacy Act provides that the pharmaceutical curriculum must be passed at the University of Melbourne or some school or college of pharmacy recognised by the Pharmacy Board.) The College was defended by one or two members, but the Minister in whose department the grant comes promised to see what could be done towards the abolition of the grant, which, he said, had already been cut down from 900*l.* to 600*l.* a year.

**THE MACROZAMIA PLANT.**—At the meeting of the Royal Society of Queensland on November 16 a paper was read by Dr. Lauterer, entitled "Macrozamia, especially respecting its Poisonous Resin, said to Produce the Rickets of Cattle." The author stated that the seeds or nuts of the macrozamia could be eaten when boiled, or boiled and fried afterwards, but in a fresh state they were poisonous, and caused purging and vomiting. As the Government Veterinary Surgeon of Western Australia was of opinion that the poisonous effects were due to the gum, Dr. Lauterer had examined the gum, and found that it was inert and resembled the metarabin of the bottle-tree. Experiments had proved that the plant did not contain any poisonous alkaloid or glucoside, but, on crushing the fruits with water and shaking with ether, a resinous body was dissolved out which proved very poisonous to frogs. This resin was found in the old plant. The natives regard the fruit as poisonous, and cook it before eating, but this is the first occasion on which the poison has been isolated.

**THE N.S.W. POISONS ACT.**—In the N.S. Wales Legislative Assembly on November 20 Mr. Hughes asked a series of questions regarding the Poisons Act. The answers were supplied the following day by the Premier, who had meanwhile consulted with members of the Pharmacy Board. The Premier's statements were as follows:—Owing to defects in the present Sale and Uses of Poisons Act, 40 Vic., No. 9, any person, however unqualified, may style himself chemist and druggist and carry on business in the colony and dispense poison, provided he receives a prescription for it or the poison is put up in the form of a patent medicine. Under the said Act the Pharmacy Board can only issue licences when applied for—(a) to registered medical practitioners; (b) to men holding the proper qualification of pharmaceutical chemist of Great Britain; (c) to persons who have served as apprentices or assistants for three years in New South Wales to a registered chemist, and, in addition, passed a qualifying examination before examiners appointed by the Board; and (d) to storekeepers in places remote from large towns who are recommended by a police magistrate and a registered medical man. There is no law in New South Wales to prevent any unqualified person opening and carrying on the business of a chemist and druggist in the colony.

**A MONTREAL CHANGE.**—Mr. Henry Miles, who for twenty-five years has been connected with Messrs. Lyman, Sons & Co, the last eight being as a partner, has retired from the firm, and will carry on business on his own account. He takes with him the *Montreal Pharmaceutical Journal*. We hope he will look carefully after the editing. In the last issue we notice a paragraph beginning, "We mentioned last week." How a monthly journal could do that it is difficult to understand; but we happen to know the paragraph, for we wrote it, although our Montreal friend does not say so.

## New Companies.

**AUTOMATIC SOAP COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 1,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To manufacture, pack, use and deal in soap, starch, blue, and all other laundry requisites. The first directors are J. A. Guy, J. B. Ingram, J. Tilley and J. W. Crabtree. Remuneration as the company may decide. Registered office, 8 The Colonnade, Westgate, Bradford.

**ANCHOR TRADING COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares (of which 4,000 are 6 per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To purchase, take over, and enter into a lease of the Southwold Saltworks and Baths, together with the goodwill, trade-marks, blocks, and the Southwold sauce recipe, lately in the possession of the Southwold Salt Works, and to carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in salt, soda, alkali, and the products therefrom, brine and sea-water bath proprietors, sauce and condiment manufacturers, drysalts, disinfectant-manufacturers, &c.

**PAYTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with W. S. Hallman, of Chicago, U.S.A., for the purchase of the business carried on by him at Falcon Mill, Poland Street, Oldham Road, Manchester, and to acquire, develop, deal with and turn to account certain processes for the manufacture of (1) an article for the cleansing of wall-papers, and (2) an article for the cleansing of carpets. The first directors are Harry Nuttall and Geo. Kilvert. Qualification ten shares. Remuneration as the company may decide.

**CITY SOAP COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and take over as a going concern the business carried on by Alfred Lucas and Fred. Puleston as "The Snowflake Soap Company," at Methvin Street, Cannon Street, Salford, Manchester, to enter into an agreement with the said vendors, and to carry on the business of soap manufacturers and agents, manufacturers of and dealers in glycerine, perfumes, cosmetics, and other toilet requisites, chemists, druggists, drysalts, disinfectant manufacturers, oil and colourmen, chemical manufacturers, &c. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—A. Lucas, Westwood Street, Moss Side, soap manufacturer; F. Puleston, 72 Lloyd Street, Moss Side, soap manufacturer; J. H. Allen, 10 Kennedy Street, Manchester, secretary; T. Philipson, 13 Upper Hulton Street, Moss Side, clerk; J. W. Puleston, Grange Road, Ashton-on-Mersey, card maker; J. Beaumont, The Vale, Bowdon, gentleman; F. R. Roberts, 4 St. Ann's Square, Manchester, solicitor.

**THE WEST OF SCOTLAND CHEMICAL COMPANY.**—Registered in Edinburgh with a capital of 12,000*l.*, divided into 2,000 ordinary and 400 deferred shares of 5*l.* each. The objects of the company are to adopt an agreement entered into between James Meikle, manager of the Ruchill Chemical works, Glasgow, and William Philpot Curran Bain, Kirkcaldy, Hamilton, and other members of the Glasgow Chemical Company (Limited), to acquire patents, patent-rights, secret processes, inventions, concessions, monopolies, trade-marks, &c., and to carry on the trades or businesses of chemical-producers, coke and gas manufacturers, tar-distillers, colliery owners, &c. The first subscribers to the company are as follows:—William Pollok, Portland Park, Hamilton; William Ewing, gas-engineer, Hamilton; Archibald Templeton, retired merchant, Portland Park, Hamilton; William S. Templeton, student, Portland Park, Hamilton; R. MacLay, C.A., Glasgow; James Meikle, chemist, Gairbraid Street, Glasgow. The registered office is situated at 209 West George Street, Glasgow.

**TYPHOID FROM ICE.**—An epidemic of typhoid fever broke out recently at Rennes, the victims of which were a certain number of officers in garrison in that town. The outbreak has been traced to impure ice which had been used for cooling champagne at a banquet. The ice used was taken from the river Vilaine, at a spot near where the sewers of the town are emptied.



# Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS IN EDINBURGH.

### MAJOR EXAMINATION.

THREE candidates were examined, and William Henry Lamb passed.

### MINOR EXAMINATION.

One hundred and sixty-five candidates were examined, and 100 failed. The following 65 passed:—

Anderson, James, Edinburgh	Macintyre, Archibald C., Greenock
Barron, Robert, Edinburgh	McDonald, David Baird, Glasgow
Barrow, John Robert, Newcastle	McKenzie, Alexander, Edinburgh
Blyton, John Henry, Manchester	McKenzie, Charles, Glasgow
Bosticey, William G., Manchester	Mason, Herbert, Wigan
Brawn, Wilfred Percival, Walsall	Melville, John, Edinburgh
Burch, Thomas William, Manchester	Murcie, John, Glasgow
Campbell, Donald, Edinburgh	Nicolson, Thomas, Edinburgh
Chalmers, William Thomas, Glasgow	Oates, Cleophas Henry, Nuneaton
Currie, Archibald, Leith	Patrick, Christopher, Manchester
Donald, Joseph, Glasgow	Pickworth, George B., Sunderland
Donaldson, James, Kirkcaldy	Plowman, Charles William, Sheffield
Field, John Faram Victor, Bately	Rimington, Whitworth, Selby
Finlayson, William, Edinburgh	Rowan, William, Glasgow
Fowler, Frank, Little Lever	Rowland, George H. C., Edinburgh
Gill, Frank, Manchester	Scott, George Baty, Edinburgh
Hadfield, Albert Edward, Manchester	Slater, Thomas Sutcliffe, Manchester
Hall, Louis Clarence, Southport	Smith, Walter, Edinburgh
Harley, David, Edinburgh	Smith, William D., Edinburgh
Harper, James William, Liverpool	Snowdon, W. H., Hebburn-on-Tyne
Harris, Abraham, Manchester	Suttie, Joseph Henry C., Edinburgh
Hill, Richard Barker, Manchester	Swanson, A. J. R., Edinburgh
Houlton, Joseph L., Edinburgh	Taylor, Thomas John, Manchester
Hoy, Charles, Edinburgh	Tierney, Frank, Marple
Jack, William, Edinburgh	Uttley, Luke, Manchester
Kirk, William Grant, Edinburgh	Vergette, George Lucas, Edinburgh
Knight, Harry Herbert, Rock Ferry	Wesley, George Ernest, Walsall
Latham, Hugh, Edinburgh	White, John Alexander, Edinburgh
Latham, William, Manchester	Wilby, Frederick Tertius, Sheffield
Lennox, James, Edinburgh	Winton, William Colin, Edinburgh
Lister, James, Perth	Woodhouse, Frederick R., Liverpool
Littler, John, jun., Edinburgh	Wright, Joseph, Hull
Lamb, Henry Alexander, Liverpool	

## LONDON RESULTS.

We have received from the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain the following list of candidates who were granted certificates at the January meeting of the London Board of Examiners.

### MAJOR EXAMINATION—PASS LIST.

Candidates examined	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
„ failed..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
„ passed	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Armitage, Nathaniel Newborn						Dyson, Thomas Hatfield	
Arrowsmith, George Micklem						Lucas, Harry	
Arundel, Edmund						Taylor, Charles Ludlow	
Boorne, Herbert Edward						Udale, George William	
Cocker, Lewis Alexander						Walker, John Robert	

### MINOR EXAMINATION—PASS LIST.

Candidates examined	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
„ failed..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
„ passed	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Adams, John						Davies, Philip Percival	
Alder, Sydney Frank						Davies, Thos. Edgar Owen	
Alexander, Ernest Glover						Daybell, Samuel Maltby	
Atkinson, Thomas Cawood						De Morgan, Frederick Filmer	
Barnes, Victor Geo. Harry						Dewdney, Albert Victor	
Barritt, Alfred						Fore, Walter Thomas	
Bell, Charles						Francis, John	
Benney, John Herbert Leslie						Green, Samuel Marston	
Bramley, William Miles						Hanson, Arthur	
Cheshire, Geoffrey						Hawley, Thomas Herbert	
Cowley, Thos. Norbert Bodnum						Hemingway, George Garrett	
Dale, John Arthur						Hickman, Fredk. Stanley	
Davies, Lewis John Arthur						Holman, Henry	

Holt, William  
Hopkins, William Edward  
Howell, Ellen May  
Hughes, Thomas Henry  
Jones, William Parry  
Kellam, Edward Henry  
Kenney, George William  
Knight, William Arthur  
Leins, Heinrich  
Lewis, Richard Rice  
Mays, Sydney Walter  
Meynell, Henry  
Morrell, John George  
Moseley, Geo. Robert M.  
Poole, Arthur Walter  
Rees, John Melbourne

Smith, Ernest Edward  
Sykes, Richard Alfred  
Tindale, Joseph Edward  
Tuffin, Alfred Henry  
Turner, Walter Frederick  
Tute, James Scott  
Veitch, William Cuthbert  
Walker, William Henry  
Ward, Tom Goodrich  
Wilkinson, Ernest Munkman  
Wilson, Harold  
Wood, John Edward  
Woodland, Walter Bayley  
Woolen, John James  
Wright, Robert Edwin

## MINOR PRACTICAL WORK.

THE following is a set of the instructions accompanying practical chemistry work given to eight Minor candidates at Galen Place from December 30 to January 3:—

1. You are given a solution of HCN (No. 1); find the amount of HCN contained in 1 c.c. by means of solid  $\text{AgNO}_3$ .
2. Determine the amount of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  contained in the given solution (No. 2) by means of the solid  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  provided.

\* \* \*

1. Prepare 250 c.c. of approximately decinormal sodium thiosulphate solution, standardizing by means of the solid iodine provided.
2. Determine the amount of available chlorine contained in 1 c.c. of the solution of chlorinated soda (No. 8), using the sodium thiosulphate solution you have yourself prepared.

\* \* \*

1. Determine the specific gravity of the liquid (No. 3) by means of the brass cylinder.
2. Determine the amount of iron contained in 1 c.c. of the solution of ferrous ammonium sulphate (No. 4) by means of the standard solution of potassium dichromate.

\* \* \*

1. Find the amount of iron contained in 1 c.c. of the ferrous-sulphate solution (No. 20) by means of solid  $\text{KMnO}_4$ .
2. Ascertain the strength of the given solution of  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (No. 21) by means of crystallised oxalic acid, and indicate how it must be treated in order to render it strictly seminormal.

\* \* \*

1. Determine the specific gravity of the liquid (No. 31) by means of the specific-gravity bottle, and calculate the cubical contents of a vessel required to hold 2,500 grammes of the liquid.
2. Find the amount of anhydrous ferrous sulphate contained in 1 c.c. of the solution (No. 32) by means of solid  $\text{KMnO}_4$ .

\* \* \*

1. Identify by chemical tests the substances contained in the pill-boxes.
2. (a) You are given a solution of HCN (No. 38); find the amount of HCN contained in 1 c.c. by means of solid  $\text{AgNO}_3$ .

(b) Determine the amount of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  contained in 1 c.c. of the given solution (No. 39) by means of crystallised oxalic acid.

*N.B.—Qualitative work must be done first.*

\* \* \*

1. (a) Determine the amount of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  contained in 1 c.c. of the solution (No. 40) by means of solid  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , and state how the solution of the acid must be treated in order to render it strictly decinormal.

(b) Determine the amount of available chlorine in 1 c.c. of the solution of chlorinated soda (No. 41) by means of the standard solution of sodium thiosulphate.

2. Identify by chemical tests the substances contained in the pill-boxes.

*N.B.—Quantitative work must be done first.*

\* \* \*

1. Identify by chemical tests the substances contained in the pill-boxes.

2. (a) Prepare a standard solution of iodine, and with it determine the amount of  $As_2O_3$  contained in 1 c.c. of the Fowler's solution (No. 42) provided.

- (b) Determine the amount of HCN contained in 1 c.c. of the solution (No. 43) by means of the standard solution of  $AgNO_3$ .

*N.B.—Qualitative work must be done first.*

### "FIRST" EXAMINATION.

THE following are the questions given at the examination held this week:—

#### LATIN.

(Time allowed—from 11 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.)

I. For all candidates. Translate into Latin:—

- There were many citizens in the town.
- A stone has been thrown into the wide river.
- Between these two boys there has been a very great friendship.
- I shall go back to my home in Italy.
- This message being received, some were filled with joy, others with fear.

II. Translate into English either A (Caesar) or B (Virgil).

(Candidates must not attempt both authors.)

#### A. CAESAR.

1. Id ea maxime ratione fecit, quod noluit cum locum, unde Helvetii discesserant, vacare, ne propter bonitatem agrorum Germani, qui trans Rhenum incolunt, e suis finibus in Helvetiorum fines transirent, et finitimi Galliae provinciae Allobrogibusque essent. Boios, petentibus Aeduis, quod egregia virtute erant cogniti, ut in finibus suis collocarent, concessit; quibus illi agros dederunt, quosque postea in parem juris libertatisque conditionem, atque ipsi erant, receperunt.

2. Dies colloquio diutius est, ex eo die quintus. Interim, saepe ultro citroque quum legati inter eos mitterentur, Ariovistus postulavit ut quem peditem ad colloquium Caesar adduceret: vereri se, ne per insidias ab eo circumveniretur; uterque cum equitatu veniret; alia ratione sese non esse venturum.

#### Grammatical Questions.

(For those only who take Caesar.)

- Give the infinitive perfect and indicative present (third person singular only) of *noluit, incolunt, transirent, collocarent, concessit, dederunt, erant, receperunt* (Par. 1).
- Give the comparative and superlative of *laetus, facilis, magnus, celer, malus, digne, graviter*.
- Write in Latin:—16, 39, 106, 14th, 19th, 47th, twice, four times, three each.
- How are questions expressed in *oratio obliqua*? Give two examples.

#### B. VIRGIL.

- Ac veluti magno in populo quum saepe coorta est Seditio, saevitque animis ignobile vulgus: Jamque faeces saxa volant; furor arma ministrat; Tum, pietate gravem ac meritis si forte virum quem Conspexere, silent, arreptisque auribus adstant: Ille regit dietis animos, et peccata mulcet. Sic cunctus pelagi cecidit fragor, acquora postquam Prospiciens genitor, coeloque inaequos aperito, Flectit equos, curruque volans dat lora secundo.
- Jam pater Aeneas et jam Trojana juvenus Conveniunt, stratoque super disumbitur ostro. Dant famuli manibus lymphas, Cereremque canistris Expediunt, tonsisque ferunt mantilia villis. Quinquaginta intus famulae, quibus ordine longam Cura penum struere, et flammis adolere Penates; Centum aliae, totidemque pares actate ministri, Qui dapibus mensas onerant, et pocula ponant.

#### Grammatical Questions.

(For those only who take Virgil.)

- Give the infinitive present and indicative perfect (third person singular only) of *coorta est, saevit, volant, silent, adstant, regit, mulcet, flectit* (Par. 1).
- Give the comparative and superlative of *laetus, facilis, magnus, celer, malus, digne, graviter*.

3. Write in Latin:—16, 39, 106, 14th, 19th, 47th, twice, four times, three each.

4. How are questions expressed in *oratio obliqua*? Give two examples.

#### ARITHMETIC.

(Time allowed—from 12.30 P.M. to 2 P.M.)

(The working of these questions, as well as the answers, must be written out in full.)

- A gallon of water weighs 10 lbs., and a cubic foot of water weighs 1,000 oz. How many gallons are there in a cubic foot?
- Take  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 4l. 0s. 1d. from  $\frac{7}{8}$  of 7l. 14s. 1d.
- If  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an acre of land costs 155 of 198l., what ought 3746 of an acre to cost at the same rate?
- What will be the cost of painting the walls of a room 32 ft. long, 18 ft. wide, and 11 ft. high, at 1s. 1½d. per square yard, allowing for three windows each 6 ft. by 4 ft., and two fireplaces each 5 ft. by 6 ft.
- A house is insured for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of its value at 1½ per cent., and the premium is 18l.: what is the value of the house?
- A tradesman advertises a reduction of 10 per cent. on the prices marked: at what price should he mark two articles for which he wishes to obtain 10s. 6d. and 19s. 6d. respectively?

The following question must be attempted by every candidate.

7. Express 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lbs. in kilogrammes, and 4 miles 3 fms. 30 pls. 9 yds. in metres.

#### ENGLISH.

(Time allowed—from 3 P.M. to 4.30 P.M.)

1. Analyse:—

"My better parts  
Are all thrown down, and that which here stands up  
Is but a quintain, a mere lifeless block."

- Parse fully: *are thrown, down, that, but, mere*.
- Correct the following sentences, giving your reasons:—  
(i.) I am neither a good actor in tragedy or comedy.  
(ii.) The audience was divided; some of them were in favour of the speaker, and some of it against him.  
(iii.) So frightened was he that he dare not move.
- In the following passage supply the necessary capital letters, and put in the stops and inverted commas where necessary:—an elderly grey whiskered gentleman had been walking down the street glancing up at the numbers of the houses now as his eyes fell upon the old man he came straight for him hullo said he perhaps you are gregory brewster my name sir answered the veteran you are the same brewster as i understand who is on the roll of the seots guards as having been present at the battle of waterloo i am that man sir though we called it the third guards in those days

The following question must be attempted by every candidate.

5. Write a short composition on one of the following subjects:—  
(i.) A visit to some large town.  
(ii.) The lasting effect of early associations.  
(iii.) "It is not the tools that make the workman."  
(iv.) "If you wish for peace, prepare for war."

## Business Changes.

MR. WILLIAM P. HORRELL has bought the business at Horbury carried on for many years by Mr. J. C. Smith.

MR. JOHN RICHARDSON, late of 46 Wellgate, Dundee has transferred his business at that address to Mr. Charles Stephen.

M. E. CHAT, of Jersey, has transferred his French pharmacy from 10 Conway Street to 26 Broad Street, St. Heliers.

MR. FRANK WEBB MAYS, chemist, of Reading, and Mr. John H. Mackay (who for many years has represented J. & H. Browning & Co., oil-merchants) have commenced business in the wholesale trade as Mays & Mackay, drug and oil merchants, Reading.

THE business of Messrs. Gardner & Ainslie, George Street, Edinburgh, is to be discontinued shortly, so far as carrying it on there is concerned; and Mr. W. Wood Ainslie, who has managed the business since his father's death, is to open a pharmacy in North Berwick.

MESSRS. JOHN DAVIS & CO. (LIMITED) have removed their printing business from London to Brighton. Their registered office is now at 135 Queen's Road, and their works at 131 Sussex Street, Brighton. Mr. John Davis, lately the managing director, has disposed of his interest in the company, which is now under new management.



## The Winter Session.

### SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

#### NOTTINGHAM SECTION.

At the meeting held on January 8 at University College, Nottingham, Mr. F. J. R. Carulla in the chair, Mr. R. M. GAVEN read a paper on

#### SOME PROPERTIES OF FERRIC PHOSPHATE.

The author entered into the investigations after some analyses of the ash of gujer, in which the estimation of the ferric phosphate had yielded him some puzzling results. The most notable point of the research was the discovery that hot water converts the phosphate into ferric oxide and phosphoric acid, a reaction which goes some way to explain certain discrepancies that are met with in the analysis of ferric phosphate. The paper, which was illustrated by numerous experiments, was discussed by Mr. Wood, Mr. Meggitt and the Chairman.

Mr. J. T. Wood then exhibited

#### A SIMPLE PROCESS OF SILVERING GLASS,

showing a splendid 10 inch telescope-disc which he had prepared only the day before. Mr. Wood explained that the process had been described and perfected by the Rev. C. L. Tweedale, so that he could not claim it as original. He took a solution of silver nitrate, strength 1 gramme to 20 c.c., to which strong ammonia was added until the precipitate was just redissolved. A solution of potash (1 gramme) was next added, and the precipitate formed was again dissolved by strong ammonia, but not quite absolutely, nitrate of silver being then added till the liquid had a straw colour. The glass to be silvered was placed horizontally in a shallow dish, and so supported as to be raised, say,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the bottom. Distilled water was poured into the dish until it reached the glass and completely covered the lower surface—viz., the one to be silvered. The glass having been raised out of the way, the silver solution as above prepared was poured into the water and well stirred with a glass rod. Some solution of pure dextrose was then added and well stirred in, the glass to be silvered being then replaced. The dextrose slowly reduced the silver to the metallic state, and a most perfect mirror was produced in less than fifteen minutes.

### MIDLAND CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting on Wednesday, January 8, Mr. F. CASSON read a paper on

#### FERMENTS.

After some preliminary remarks the author stated that ferments possess three properties:—(1) They are nitrogenous organic substances; (2) they are unstable—heat, acids, &c., readily destroying them; and (3) a relatively small quantity is capable of producing great changes in the body acted upon, especially if the products of the change be removed. Ferments can naturally be divided into two groups—viz., organised and soluble ferments.

The author then proceeded to describe diastasic, peptic, rennet, and pancreatic fermentation, incidentally describing how pepsin is made, and, giving special attention to the pancreatic ferments, described how the proteolytic, diastasic, and fat-emulsifying ferments may be isolated from the pancreatic juice. Finally, the author reported upon eight samples of pepsin tested in the B.P. way. Six answered the test, two left much albumen undissolved. Five samples tested by the U.S.P. method were shown, of which three were satisfactory. The author acknowledged his thanks to Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay, in whose laboratories the work for the paper was done.

The paper was discussed by the PRESIDENT and Messrs H. S. LAWTON and H. JESSOP. Mr. CASSON, in replying, stated that the samples of pepsin which had proved themselves the best were, with few exceptions, the highest priced.

### PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION

THE quarterly meeting of the above was held at the Foresters' Hall, Plymouth, on January 8, Mr. C. J. Park

(President) in the chair. The SECRETARY (Mr. J. Cocks) reported a gift of books from Mr. E. M. Holmes, including Remington's "Pharmacy" and two copies of Attfield's "Chemistry." A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Holmes. Through the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. Kinton Bond, the lecture on "The Metric System" was postponed, and the evening was devoted to a general discussion on trade matters, the duties of local secretaries, the interviewing of Parliamentary members, and early-closing. The SECRETARY announced that a deputation from the Exeter Association had visited Plymouth the previous month, and were shown the rooms and general working of the local Association with the view of making that of Exeter a greater success than at present.

The members of the Junior Section held their monthly meeting on January 9, at which Mr. W. S. TAVENER read a paper on "The Microscope." The origin of the instrument was traced to the early Italians and Dutch, and modern improvements were pointed out. The researches of Pasteur and others made with the aid of the microscope were referred to, and its relation to the pharmaceutical-examination work was enlarged upon, and students were advised to use it early in their studies.

### CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE second half of the session was commenced on Thursday evening, January 9, at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford Street, W., by a smoking-concert, over which Professor J. R. Green, F.R.S., presided, Mr. C. B. Allen, of Kilburn, occupying the vice-chair. The attendance was not so good as on the last occasion, and the first part of the programme was a trifle disappointing; but, as the evening wore on, a lot of people dropped in, and both music and fun got livelier, so that before the concert closed everybody was in the best of spirits, and most of them were smoking pipes, while a few drank coffee.

The supporters of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were largely drawn from the official class. We noticed among them Mr. John Harrison and Mr. Richard Bremridge, as representative of the Pharmaceutical Council; Messrs. Claridge Druce, Francis Ransom, and E. W. Lucas from the Board of Examiners; and Professor Greenish and Mr. Joseph Ince from the School of Pharmacy. Mr. Charles Umney and Mr. J. C. Umney stayed for a song or two. Mr. Thomas Richer, late of Paignton, quietly enjoyed the thing, and we heard Mr. T. C. W. Martin's laugh somewhere in the hall. There was a small Scotch contingent, headed by Mr. Watson Will, and the old officers of the Society were present in force. Messrs. R. H. Jones and Lloyd Williams were the past Presidents who thus renewed their youth. During the interval Mr. E. W. Hill, the President, thanked Professor Green and Mr. Allen, both of whom neatly responded, the latter especially complimenting the Association on the good work it is doing. Mr. W. S. Crouch, with a committee, were responsible for the arrangements.

#### THE DINNER.

Mr. George Roe, 1A Campden Grove, W., the Honorary Secretary of the Dinner Committee, informs us that the dinner will be held in the "King's Hall," Holborn Restaurant, on March 5, which is now the "crack" dining-hall of London. Employers and gentlemen engaged in the wholesale trade are invited to act as stewards.

### LIVERPOOL PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

THE sixth annual dinner of this Society was held at the Alexandra Hotel on January 9, Mr. T. S. Wokes (President) in the chair. There was a good attendance of members and friends, including Drs. Symes, Nevins, Logan, and Larkin; Professor R. J. Harvey Gibson, M.A.; Messrs. Chas. Sharp, W. Wellings, J. Shacklady, and others. The dinner was served up in excellent style. Mr. R. H. MITCHELL proposed "The Medical Profession" in a neat little speech, which provoked a most amusing and interesting response from Dr. NEVINS, who treated his hearers to reminiscences of the medical profession gathered during his experience of nearly seventy years. Mr. PROSPER H. MARSDEN proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society," Dr. SYMES replying. In the toast of "The Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society" Mr. CHAS SHARP wished



continued prosperity to an earnest band of your pharmacists, and urged them to be loyal to themselves and to the Society. Mingled with much good advice there was some quaint humour, and the remarks caused a continuous ripple of laughter. In reply the PRESIDENT urged upon the members the importance of extending and emphasising those features which had made the Society such a power among local pharmacists. Mr. J. G. JACKSON briefly proposed "The Visitors," to which Professor R. J. HARVEY GIBSON responded, saying in the course of his remarks that he rejoiced to see the growing affinity between the pharmacist and university life, and he hoped the relation would become closer as the years went on. A most enjoyable programme of music was rendered by Messrs. Paul Waring, Will Berry, Fred Behn, and E. James.

#### LINNEAN SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the Society Mr. R. A. ROLFE gave an abstract of a paper entitled

#### A REVISION OF THE GENUS VANILLA,

in which some fifty species were enumerated, seventeen of which were described as new, though five of them had been previously confused with older forms. The plants in this genus were described as tall forest climbers, some of them leafless, found almost throughout the Tropics, though generally somewhat local in their distribution. Of the species described twenty-nine were American, eleven Asiatic, and ten African. Six of the American species were stated to have aromatic fruits, and three are well known in commerce, although only one of them, *Vanilla planifolia* (often confused with other species), is largely cultivated as an economic plant. Mr. Rolfe gave an account of the morphology and mode of fertilisation of the genus, its affinities and geographical distribution, and an enumeration of the species with descriptions. As indicating a still imperfect knowledge of the genus, he remarked that it was even now uncertain to what species the Peruvian plant with aromatic fruits belonged which was noticed by Humboldt more than eighty years ago. The paper was illustrated by a series of carefully-made drawings.

#### EDINBURGH CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting held on Friday, January 10, Mr. J. M. Cameron (President) in the chair, Mr. WILLIAM LYON read a

#### NOTE ON PILULA FERRI, B.P.

He has made a series of experiments with the view of reducing the size of Bland's pills, and has found the following formula to give a pill equal to the B.P. one in every respect, and the bulk is a fifth less:—

Dried carbonate of potassium	..	..	30 gr.
" sulphate of iron	..	..	36 "
Powdered sugar	..	..	15 "
Powdered tragacanth	..	..	3 "
Glycerine	..	..	2 minims
Syrup	..	..	10 " or a sufficiency

By using carefully-dried sulphate of iron pharmacists may rely on this formula giving a pill-mass which will meet every test that can be applied to the B.P. mass. Pills made as above can be readily varnished with ethereal solution of tolu-syrup residue. Another method which gives a nice result is to moisten the surface of them in finely-powdered wood-charcoal, and when dry varnish with tolu solution. Thus treated they have a nice glossy black appearance, and the gradual oxidation of the pill is not observed by the patient.

The same writer submitted a

#### NOTE ON COMPOUND COLOCYNTH PILLS.

The object of it was to draw attention to the suitability of aromatic spirit of ammonia as a massing agent. He has come to the conclusion that it was far superior to any other agent. After being kept for nearly six months, pitting of the pills was scarcely perceptible. Unfortunately, however, for the adoption of sal volatile as a massing-agent, the B.P. pill

is very frequently prescribed along with calomel, which undergoes decomposition in the presence of a salt of ammonia.

Following this, Mr. Lyon described a difficulty with

#### HYDRARG. OLEAT. AND UNG. POT. IOD.

The prescription was:—

Hydrarg. oleat.	..	..	..	..	5i.
Ung. potass. iodid.	..	..	..	..	3vj.

M.

On mixing this it assumes a bluish colour, which quickly changes to dirty brown, but on standing for a day or two the colour gradually disappears, and it remains yellowish white. This is due to formation of mercurous iodide, which in presence of excess of potassium iodide forms a double iodide of mercury and potassium, mercury being liberated. Then, finally, free oleic acid and mercury react, Mr. Lyon thinks, with potassium oleate, forming a double oleate. A mixture of hydrarg. oleat. 3ij. and ung. pot. iodid. 3vj. gives a feeble bluish colour, and, finally, becomes yellowish white; and so, as the proportions of the two are brought to equality, the vigour of the reactions diminishes.

After some discussion upon the notes, Mr. JAMES McBAIR read some notes on Macquer's "Chemistry," published in 1758.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS' AND APOTHECARIES' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

At the meeting of this Association, held in Dublin on January 10, a paper was read by Mr. W. PAYNE, Honorary Treasurer, on

#### LABELS AND LABELLING.

The author considered that sufficient attention is not given to this subject. Bad writing, ugly labels, labels carelessly affixed, and many other faults are only too commonly met with. Dublin pharmacists get a greater variety of dispensing work than is generally the case elsewhere, owing to the fact that not 1 per cent. of the Dublin medical men dispense their own medicines. With this wide experience, pharmacy in Dublin should be in every particular of the highest excellence. The most important part of a dispensing-label is the writing. His opinion was that the directions on all dispensing-labels should be written by hand; certainly not with a typewriter. There was only one greater abomination than a typewritten label, and that was a lithographed one with spaces left to be filled in. If the physician were to keep a printed form for prescriptions, and simply fill in the quantities to suit each patient, he would be on a par with the chemist who used lithographed labels. As to the style of writing, there were, of course, differences of opinion on this point, and it was not a matter to dogmatise upon. Some might remember the label-writing competition in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST some years ago, and, in any case, they would have seen in the "Art of Dispensing" the label which got the highest marks for distinctness. Allowing for what the label had lost in the process of reproduction, he thought it was a capital specimen of what it should be. Labels look much better if the ink is allowed to dry on them by evaporation, than if blotted. A very useful accomplishment is that of being able to print neatly in small letters. Mixtures, &c., are frequently ordered to be labelled "The Tonic," "The Alkaline Mixture," &c., and it looks much nicer to print neatly the extra words than to write them in the same style as the directions. The printed part of the labels should be as plain as possible. Some of the really first chemists in London use labels with nothing more than name, qualification, and address, beside the written part, and in his opinion this was the best way. Trimming labels is in some cases necessary; but he could see no necessity for paring a label on which the margin was even all round. But a round ointment-label should not be converted into an octagonal one in the trimming-process. Some pharmacists prefer paste to the more commonly used mucilage for affixing labels; the writer regarded paste as dirty. It was said that gummed labels were apt to come off, but in ten years' experience of their use he could vouch to the contrary. A very common thing it was to see on a bottle a crinkled label, caused by being affixed whilst too damp, or from other cause. A good way to prevent this was



to damp the label a half-minute before affixing it. Where on the bottle should the label or labels be attached? Of the vacant space on a bottle, one-fourth should be at the top and three-fourths at the bottom, and the "shake" should be affixed about one-tenth or one-eighth of an inch above the top of the other label. If a "Note the dose," or other label, had to be attached in addition, he would put it at the bottom. A good deal might be said about the wording of labels. The space should be as well filled in as possible. "A tablespoonful three times a day" might be always elaborated into "A tablespoonful to be taken," &c. Ambiguity was very common in label-writing. Frequently he had seen coming from good houses such as "A tablespoonful three times a day after meals in water," reminding one of the man who carried out implicitly the directions to take his medicine in any convenient vehicle, by hiring a hansom. Similar slips of grammatical accuracy were frequently to be met with, but they were unpardonable on the part of a chemist who had passed the severe test of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Wafers and folded, or Hunt's, caps were much more stylish than sealing-wax for finishing off the corks of medicine-bottles, and the cost was very little, if anything, more than that of sealing-wax. The capping might be done after a little practice as quickly as sealing. Regarding prescription-stamps, which partly came under the head of labels, he thought prescriptions should invariably be stamped on the back, and the stamp used should be the smallest possible, capable of holding the name and address of the pharmacist and the copied number. He had recently had a prescription with nineteen or twenty stamps upon it, and, except for the copy in the prescription-book, it would have been impossible to compound it. There is some chance of it becoming usual for all prescriptions to be stamped on the back, as it is not uncommon now to find that the medical men's forms contain a polite request to use the back as a record.

The writer concluded by suggesting that a label-writing competition be held by the Association in the early future.

#### MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE usual monthly meeting of this Association was held on January 15, at the Victoria Hotel, and was well attended. Mr. G. S. Woolley, the President, occupied the chair, and Mr. W. LANE read a paper on the

#### SALE OF POISONS AND POISONOUS PREPARATIONS.

Mr. Lane first spoke of the restrictions on the sale of poisons effected by the Act of 1868. It was urged, he said, by the Pharmaceutical Society that "the education of the vendor was the only safe foundation for a Poisons Bill," and that proposition was accepted. The Act was passed, and thenceforward the sale of poisons could legally only be conducted under certain specified conditions. So far all seemed well. The Pharmaceutical Society was entrusted with full authority to see to the carrying-out of the Act in all phases. But many difficulties came into the way. It was a trade society, and all its movements were attributed to selfish interests. For twenty years the Society devoted its time to matters of education, and the sale of poisons drifted more and more into unsafe channels. At all events, this was so so far as so-called patent medicines and other poisonous proprietary articles were concerned. But in the face of strongly expressed medical opinion, coroners' verdicts, and public opinion enunciated through the Press, the Pharmaceutical Society could no longer delay to enforce by legal proceedings the provisions of the Act of which they were the legal custodians. After briefly describing the legal proceedings which the Society had taken, Mr. Lane said he thought it was now generally understood by traders that the vending of medicines, stamped or unstamped, consisting in whole or in part of one or more scheduled poisons, might legally only be carried on by qualified chemists. But they must remember that the law as it now stands is very far-reaching, and it behoved every qualified person to make himself conversant with pharmacy law, and not only that, but to see that the conditions of sale as regarded labelling, entering, &c., were carefully and regularly carried out. In one case of a girl having attempted suicide by taking oxalic acid, though it was proved that the assistant who supplied it had duly

labelled it "Poison," the Magistrates held that a chemist, knowing a thing to be a deadly poison, should, in the interest of the public and in the interest of his own reputation, do his best to correct any omission of the Act. He suggested that sales should be duly registered, and that mineral acids, though there was no law rendering it compulsory to label them, should be labelled "Poison." He knew of no calling or avocation where one required to have his wits about him more than a chemist, there were so many pitfalls for the unwary. He deprecated the practice of putting mineral acids, carbolic acid, ammonia, and other dangerous liquids into ginger-beer bottles, cups, glasses, and other unsuitable vessels.

A vote of thanks was passed to the author, and a discussion followed, in which the Chairman, Messrs. Kirkby, Wilkinson, Kemp, Blackburne, and Schollar took part.

#### Failure of an Anti-cutting Scheme.

MESSRS. G. & G. STERN (LIMITED), the proprietors of *Pepsalia*, have recently announced their intention to discontinue the bonus system on that article, as well as on *Narissa* and *Zalones*, to the retail trade from February 15 next. A *C. & D.* representative called on them recently with the object of ascertaining the reason for this decision.

"We were reluctant to give up our scheme. I was especially so," said Mr. Berghelm, the managing director. "When we established it two and a half years ago, we thought that a minimum profit of 40 per cent. or thereabouts would have satisfied the trade, but we have made careful investigation, and as far as we can judge there is but very little difference in the tendency to substitute a similar article for ours among chemists. We got about one-fifth of the chemists of Great Britain to sign our agreement, but we do not think that more than one-fifth of that fifth really appreciated it. We made a great sacrifice of our profit, and in addition the clerical labour involved has cost us at least 200*l.* a year. Besides verifying and paying the bonuses on all invoices sent to us, we had an enormous correspondence in reference to the scheme, and had sometimes to answer thirty letters a day in reference to complaints of underselling. We often found chemists who had signed our agreement selling below the minimum fixed price, and we also found that a large majority of the trade did not care for any anti-cutting arrangement at all. A large number have told us that they objected to bind themselves in that way on any consideration. As a matter of fact we are now virtually convinced that free trade is the right principle, and by this principle we intend to abide. We will sell our goods at a price which will give the retailer a fair margin of profit. He, on his part, must decide whether he will take it or not. If he chooses to part with it to his customers that must be his business, not ours. No anti-cutting scheme will, in our opinion, be successful unless every manufacturer, large and small, together with all and every wholesale and retail firm, combine. This is impossible."

"At present you are selling on the bonus system?"

"Yes, and we shall continue to carry on the system until February 15; after then we shall revert to our original prices."

PHARMACEUTICAL ADVERTISING.—The walls and boardings of Paris are soon to be decorated with a new coloured poster advertising the well-known Géraudel cough-*lezenzes*. The new poster is an artistic production, and, as such, does credit to the well-known artist, Chéret, who has designed it, though, like many similar productions, it somewhat lacks reality. The subject is a pretty and elegant *parisienne* in a snowstorm. In one hand she carries a parasol held behind her head, and the other, outstretched, presents a box of the famous cough remedy. The sketch is thrown up by a dark background. The remainder of the picture gives one the impression of having been finished in haste, as half the lady's skirt is transparent and shows an abnormal amount of "limb," while the thin slippers she wears, and the fact that her feet do not appear to touch the ground, give her somewhat the appearance of flying.



## Legal Reports.

### THE IRISH PHARMACY ACT.

#### APPRENTICES TO COMPANIES.

ON January 15, in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, Dublin, judgment was given in the case of *Cleeland v. the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland*. Mr. Cleeland had obtained a conditional order for a mandamus to compel the Society to admit him to examination for their licence as a pharmaceutical chemist.

The Court consisted of Mr. Justice O'Brien, Mr. Justice Johnson, Mr. Justice Holmes, and Mr. Justice Gibson.

Mr. Justice O'Brien said the Society objected to admit Mr. Cleeland to the examination on the ground that he had not complied with the regulation which required an apprenticeship of four years to be served with a pharmaceutical chemist, his apprenticeship having been served with a limited company, which included qualified persons, but the members of which were not all qualified. That objection, if good, would have the effect of a severe restriction on trade. There was no doubt that a great evil required to be checked by law, occurring chiefly in England, and consisting in the excessive increase of chemists' shops for the sale of comparatively valueless materials of mysterious virtues, and ministering to the infirmities, delusions, vanity, and gullibility of a large portion of the population, and sometimes even to vicious and criminal tendencies and affording a large sphere for charlatanism and negligence. This gave rise to the Irish Pharmacy Act of 1875, which was the first step in the creation of a monopoly of the sale of drugs, the bonds of which the Society had been tightening every day. Having regard to the fact that there was no restriction in the 21st section of that Act as to the class who were to be admissible for examination, and that the regulations were to "be subject to the provisions of the Act," it was absolutely certain that there was no power in the Society to make apprenticeship of any kind a condition of the examination. They made a regulation in 1887—upon the construction of the terms of which the question to be decided now mainly turned—and by that regulation the person presenting himself for examination was required to produce a statutory declaration, signed by a pharmaceutical chemist, a registered chemist and druggist of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, or an apothecary, stating that the candidate had served for four years as an apprentice or assistant with such persons, or, in the alternative, with a firm of legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists, registered chemists and druggists of Great Britain, or apothecaries, of which the person signing the declaration was a member. According to the view he took of the power the Council of the Society possessed under their Act of 1875, that was not a regulation that they were entitled to make at all; and it was extremely likely that that gave rise to section 10 of the amending Act of 1890, which directed a four years' apprenticeship. If he were right in the view that the regulation of 1887 was in excess of the authority the Council possessed, that brought them face to face with the case of the *Patents Agents v. Lockwood* (Appeal Cases 1894) as to what was the legal effect of by-laws or regulations being laid before Parliament, and whether they were legalised so absolutely as to prevent any objection being made in a court of law on the ground that they were *ultra vires*. In that case the House of Lords unanimously decided that the rule there questioned was *intra vires*. Lord Herschell, in his judgment, said that the regulation was made by a public authority—namely, the Board of Trade. Undoubtedly it seemed a strange and dangerous thing that it should be in the power of any person or persons, by the unnoticed and formal proceeding of placing a regulation before the House of Commons, to invest it with the force of an Act of Parliament; and if the question were entirely new he would be disposed—supposing there were nothing else in the matter—to agree in the reasoning of Lord Morris that the object of laying regulations before Parliament was sufficiently satisfied by the power of simply and directly annulling them if they were wrong, and removing them from the sphere of legal discussion. It did not appear to him that some of the arguments of Lord Herschell met the real point of the case in some respects, because he

appeared to have relied, to some extent, on the supposed degree of public confidence to be reposed in a public department such as the Board of Trade; and if that were used by him, not as an argument for concluding that the regulation questioned in that case was *intra vires*, but as an argument independent of that view, it would appear to him (Mr. Justice O'Brien) impossible, on any ground of legal principle, to withdraw the same presumption of confidence from a body like the Pharmaceutical Society. In the present case the Act of Parliament existed anterior to the making of the regulation, and if the latter was to be construed as part of the Act it did not appear to him that it could have the effect of obliterating the interval of time between the passing of the Act and the making of the regulation. However, the House of Lords case to which he was referring was not distinguishable from the present, and gave the regulation in the present case the force of an Act of Parliament. Between that regulation made in 1887 and the section of the Act of Parliament of 1890 there was only one difference—namely, that the regulation not only declared that the person should serve an apprenticeship, but added the words, "firm of pharmaceutical chemists." The fact of the provision for apprenticeship being found in the Act of 1890 must be taken to be a legislative declaration and recognition of the regulation already made. The whole matter in the present case appeared to turn on the construction of the words, "firm of pharmaceutical chemists." These appeared to be quite sufficient to decide the question. It was impossible in his mind by any strain or twist of reasoning or language to raise any question as to the meaning of those words. They meant individual pharmaceutical chemists. They could not be taken to mean a body including pharmaceutical chemists or a company. The policy of the law related to individual pharmaceutical chemists and was indicated by the provisions of the statute of the Irish Parliament under which the Apothecaries' Hall was instituted, and which established a system of both examination and apprenticeship. The word "firm" in the present case could not have its original mercantile meaning, which was merely signature on authentication, and which could not be introduced into this statute without producing nonsense. He was, therefore, compelled to come to the conclusion that it was impossible to assist the applicant in the present case by granting a mandamus.

Mr. Justice Johnson said it had been suggested, rather than argued, that the regulation, on the construction of which the Court had now to pronounce judgment, was *ultra vires*. In his opinion the Court was not competent to entertain, much less decide, on any such consideration. In the *Patent Agents v. Lockwood* the regulations questioned were held to be as effectual as if they were part of the statute. The regulations now before the Court were approved of by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, were laid before Parliament, and were not interfered with by Parliament, and were therefore of like force and effect as if they had been enacted in the statute. On January 1, 1884, Mr. Cleeland was apprenticed to Mr. Pring, a pharmaceutical chemist in Belfast carrying on business under the style of Grattan & Co., which subsequently became a limited company. Cleeland continued his apprenticeship with the limited company for six years, which brought them down to 1890. He then became an assistant of the company for five years. He paid fees, and was admitted to the Preliminary examination, and now having fulfilled a *bona-fide* engagement of service far exceeding the prescribed period, he asked the Council of the Society to admit him to the Final examination, tendering the following declaration:—"I, Thomas Green, hereby declare that R. H. Cleeland has completed with me in the employment of the limited company, having its registered office in Belfast, of which I am a member, and which is a firm of legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists, a full term of six years ending January 1, 1895, as assistant, and I further declare that the said firm kept open shop for the sale of poisons and compounding of medical prescriptions at said place during said period, and that said R. H. Cleeland spent his business day in our employment." That declaration did not state that Mr. Cleeland had served with and in the sole employment of Mr. Green, the pharmaceutical chemist who signed it, or of a firm of legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists of which he was a member; and that was the principal cause shown against the conditional order.



The net question for decision was simply the construction of Subsection A of Regulation 3. It appeared from the affidavits that this limited company consisted of eleven persons—viz., 3 ladies, a clergyman, 5 male persons of no specified occupation, a registered pharmaceutical chemist, who had one share in the company, and Mr. Green, who was a registered pharmaceutical chemist, and who was the manager of the company. The latter part of the regulation meant, he was disposed to think, a declaration signed by a partnership of individuals, each of whom was a legally qualified pharmaceutical chemist, and of which the individual signing the declaration was a member. It did not contemplate a "legally qualified firm." There was no such thing in the statute or in the regulations, even assuming that a limited company as such was a "firm" within the meaning of the regulation—which he was not called upon to decide, and as to which he gave no opinion. This was a very hard case. The applicant seemed to have been misled by having been admitted to pass the Preliminary examination. Had the present objection been then taken there might have been sufficient time for him to have duly qualified himself; and he (Mr. Justice Johnson) made no doubt that the Council would see their way out of the difficulty in this exceptional case. But the Society were contesting the matter, as he understood, on principle; and he thought their contention was right. In his opinion, the conditional order must be discharged on the ground that the applicant did not produce a statutory declaration signed by a pharmaceutical chemist, and stating that the candidate had served the prescribed period in the sole employment of such pharmaceutical chemist, or of a firm of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists, of which the person making the declaration was a member.

Mr. Justice Holmes, in the course of his judgment, said the regulation before the Court was not supplementary to, but absolutely contradictory of, the provisions of the 21st section of the Act of 1875. All he said was that Parliament and the Council differed. Perhaps the former had changed its mind, for he found in the amending Act of 1890 that, while no change was made in the case of pharmaceutical chemists, four years' service was required as a qualification for chemists and druggists. During the discussion it occurred to some of the members of the Court that the question of the regulation being *ultra vires* might arise; but they were not, he thought, aware—he, for one, was not—of the direct contradiction between it and the statute. Mr. Campbell, at an early stage of the argument, stated that he did not intend to raise the point. At a later period he said he did not abandon it, and intimated that he might wish to discuss it elsewhere. He (Mr. Justice Holmes) understood his difficulty. He represented a young man who, having served a term of four years in one of the best pharmaceutical establishments in the country, sought to be permitted to earn a livelihood, but who, he presumed, did not wish to come into collision with an influential corporation. Mr. Campbell, however, could not expect the Court to decide the point without argument. He (Mr. Justice Holmes) had read the case of the *Institution of Patents v. Lockwood*, but it did not seem to govern the present case. His Lordship referred to the repugnancy between the section of the Act of 1875 and the regulation, and to a private Bill that was brought forward in 1874, and said that whilst those matters gave no help on the question of law they illustrated the possible consequences of Parliament entrusting a body not directly responsible to itself with a quasi-legislative authority, and suggested the necessity of keeping such authority, when given, under the control of a legal tribunal. A limited company could not be registered under the Act of 1875; but it had been argued that without registration it could legally carry on the business, and the case of the *Pharmaceutical Society v. the London Supply Association* was relied on in support of that contention. Although the English and the Irish law were not identical, that view was probably correct, and Mr. Gordon did not satisfy him that the 17th section of the Act of 1890 made any change in that respect. He did not desire, however, to express a strong opinion upon a matter which they were told would be the subject of litigation in that Court, with a party much more interested in its determination than the present applicant, against whom he (Mr. Justice Holmes) was obliged to decide, even if that point were assumed in his favour. The regulation required a statutory declaration which the ap-

plicant had not obtained, and which could not be made truthfully. It should state that he was in the sole employment either of the pharmaceutical chemist who signed it—which was not the fact, as he was in the employment of the company—or of a "firm" of legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists. Mr. Campbell asked the Court to read those words as including a joint-stock company entitled to carry on the business of pharmaceutical chemists. But, assuming that the word "firm" included a corporate body, the "legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists" must mean the individuals that compose the corporate body, and admittedly these are not all legally qualified. The case was a hard one—so hard as to tempt a Court to strain the law. Indeed, the applicant's construction became, with the aid of a certain amount of metaphysical reasoning, not impossible. But if he were to adopt it he would feel that he was acting from a wish to do something more than to give a plain and honest meaning to the language of a regulation which, if *intra vires*, must be construed as a section of the statute. For that reason he was against the applicant on the question that had been argued by his counsel. But now he hoped he should be pardoned if he added to his judgment a few words not strictly judicial. He had a great respect for the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, and he was sure they were sincerely anxious to uphold the standard of a profession which was of great value to the country. There was nothing unreasonable in requiring from the future pharmacist practical experience gained by apprenticeship or service; and if statutory authority for that purpose was needed there would probably be little difficulty in obtaining it. The applicant had served for four years in a pharmaceutical establishment of the highest character. Two other apprentices or assistants in the same position had been admitted to the examination. If the Council had the power—as they were told it had, irrespective of the regulation in question—to allow him to be examined, the case was surely a fit one for the exercise of that power. The controversy between the limited company and the individual—if it was to be fought out—could be determined without preventing a young man from getting his living in that state of life for which he had tried to qualify himself. But might he not ask, Why should the controversy be fought out at all. The contest was hardly consistent with the dignity or even the interests of the Pharmaceutical Society. As far as the public were concerned there was no reason why a joint-stock company should not carry on the business of pharmacists provided it had a properly-qualified manager; and an apprentice or assistant of such company who had given his sole attention to the pharmaceutical department was just as likely to be well trained as any other. Surely it would be prudent for the Council to reconsider the matter before they engaged in a crusade against bodies that for more than twenty years had been permitted in Great Britain and Ireland to carry on business, often to the convenience, and never, as far as he was aware, to the injury of the public.

Mr. Justice Gibson concurred in the judgment of the other members of the Court.

Mr. Justice O'Brien said he entirely concurred in the observations of his colleagues as to the Council exercising a discretion in favour of Mr. Cleland.

Mr. Day said he was instructed on the part of the Council to say that they would admit Mr. Cleland to the examination if they could do it, but that that action of theirs was not to be taken as a precedent.

Conditional order discharged, but without costs.

Counsel for the applicant: Messrs. Campbell, Q.C., and Wilson, instructed by Messrs. H. & W. Mahaffin. For the Society: Messrs. Gordon, Q.C., and Day, instructed by Messrs. Casey & Clay.

#### M.D., U.S.A.

At the County of London Sessions on January 11, before Sir P. H. Edlin, Q.C., John Ferdinand appealed against a conviction by Mr. Sheil, under section 40 of the Medical Act, 1858 (21 and 22 Vict., chap. 90), for unlawfully and falsely pretending to be and using the name and title of a doctor of medicine. The penalty inflicted by Mr. Sheil was the *maximum* to which the appellant was liable—20*l.*, with 10*l.* costs. The appellant, it will be remembered, gave a certificate,



which he signed, adding to his name the letters M.D., U.S.A. In another case he signed a receipt and added to his name the letters M.D., LL.D., Ph.D., Pa. Mr. Turrell, who appeared for the appellant, said the appellant had in fact a diploma from the University of Philadelphia, but he admitted that he had no qualification in this country. He had desired to keep within the law, and had consulted a book, according to which his action was perfectly correct. It was, unfortunately, a book of no authority—the "Guide to Medical Men," by Mr. Wootton and Dr. Forbes Winslow. The learned counsel urged, on the authority of "*Carpenter v. Hamilton*" (37 *L.T.*, N.S., 157), that if the appellant added letters signifying that his degree was American, he was not liable. He also contended that the appellant, so far from representing himself as an English medical man, had vilified the profession, and had set himself up as being superior to them, and had laid stress on the fact that his degree was a foreign one. The learned Chairman, in dismissing the appeal with costs, said the facts were clear. The appellant's signatures were before the Court, and even if they had been unaccompanied by conversations the mere fact that he added U.S.A. or Pa. would not be sufficient to justify him. The Court regarded this as a grave offence. The statute was expressly passed to prevent the mischief which occurred in this case. The conviction and sentence would be affirmed, with costs.

#### THE DIFFICULTIES OF AN UNQUALIFIED OWNER.

IN the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court on Saturday, Mr. Justice Kennedy gave judgment in the case of *Butler and another v. G. H. Doveton*. The action was brought to recover balance of an account for goods supplied to a chemist's business at 818 Holloway Road. The business was one carried on under the name of Christmas & Co., in respect of which defendant occupied the position of mortgagee. He found it to his interest to become the purchaser of the business, and on the death of Mr. Christmas, he, not being a practical chemist himself, employed another person to carry on the business, under an agreement. The goods were supplied to the last named, and the defendant, who said he did not order the goods, denied the liability. His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, but stayed execution on terms.

#### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

##### LEAD IN LEMONADE.

AT Stratford Police Court, on January 11, Robert John Tomlin, mineral-water manufacturer, of Harrow Green, was summoned by Captain Kittoe, inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, for selling a syphon of lemonade which contained lead to the extent of 0.18 per cent., or to the amount of  $\frac{1}{5}$  gr. to the pint. The defendant pleaded guilty. The certificate of Dr. Pooley, the public analyst, having been put in, Mr. Tomlin called Mr. Norman, another analyst, who admitted the truth of the analysis by Dr. Pooley, but said that the amount of lead was so small as not to be injurious to health. The defendant's appliances were all of the most approved and up-to-date character. He had examined everything carefully, and thought the lead was in the citric acid, without which lemonade could not be made. Mr. Barnett Tabrum: The moral is, "Don't drink lemonade"; if you take enough of it you'll develop into a leaden bullet, I suppose. People are always being told not to drink intoxicating liquors, which are said to do so much harm, so I think it's just as well the public should know something about the dangers of lemonade." Dealing with the case, Mr. Tabrum said the Bench did not think there was any intention on the part of the defendant to infringe the law, and he would, therefore, be fined in the nominal penalty of 1s., and 6s. 6d. costs.

##### PRESERVATIVES IN WINES.

AT the Westminster Police Court last week, a judgment affecting the sale of British wines was given. Walton, Hassell & Port, grocers, were prosecuted by the Parish of St. George, Hanover Square, under the sixth section of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, for selling orange wine containing salicylic acid. The wine sold admittedly contained

0.33 per cent. of the acid, equivalent to 26.6 grs. per gallon. Mr. Cassal, the public analyst, and Dr. W. H. Corfield deposed that the acid, even in the quantity used, was injurious to health. For the defence a number of expert witnesses were called, who regarded salicylic acid as a most useful preservative, and as being in the quantity employed perfectly harmless. Mr. de Rutzen, in the course of a long judgment, said he had no hesitation in dismissing the summons, on the ground that the case came within the Act, that the drug was not, in the quantity used, injurious to health, and had not been added to the wine to increase its bulk or conceal its inferior quality, but solely for anti-epic purposes.

##### COPPER IN PRESERVED PEAS.

AT Southwark Police Court, on January 15, before Mr. Fenwick, H. C. Summers, trading as George Mence Smith, at High Street, Borough, was summoned, at the instance of Mr. Grist, sanitary inspector to the St. Saviour's District Board of Works, for selling preserved peas, mixed or coloured with an ingredient injurious to health—viz.,  $\frac{5}{10}$  gr. of copper per pound of peas. Mr. Frank Dodd, barrister, prosecuted on behalf of the parish, and stated that the summons was taken out under the third section of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875. The quantity of metallic copper found in the peas was equal to 3.16 gr. of sulphate of copper per pound of peas. He contended that chronic poisoning might result from a constant use of the peas. The chief object in introducing the copper into the peas was to give them their original green colour. Evidence was given by Mr. Grist and his daughter as to the purchase of a bottle of peas, and by Mr. Bodmer, the public analyst; Dr. Leonard Wyld, medical officer of health at Croydon; Dr. F. J. Waldo, medical officer of health of St. George the Martyr; and Drs. Heron and Somerville, medical officers of health of St. Saviour's, who bore out counsel's statement. Mr. H. Bonsey, barrister, called for the defence Dr. Verney, physician of King's College Hospital, who stated that the copper was not introduced into the peas to give them colour, but merely to fix the colour, and its use was quite innocuous, as was shown by the fact that twenty millions of tins of these peas were annually sold and consumed. The further hearing was adjourned.

#### THE PHARMACY ACT AND THE SALE OF "MOTHER'S FRIEND."

BEFORE his Honor Judge Bedwell, at the Hull County Court, on January 15, the case of the Pharmaceutical Society *v. C. E. Peacock* was heard. Mr. Grey, barrister, appeared for the plaintiff Society, and Mr. H. C. Hare represented defendant. Mr. Grey said the plaintiff's case was that on October 26 last defendant sold a bottle containing a mixture labelled "Mother's True Friend." This mixture contained morphine and Epsom salts, with water, and was pleasing to the smell. It contained  $\frac{1}{5}$  gr. of morphine to 1 oz of fluid, and in the bottle there was 17 gr. of morphine. That quantity would certainly be fatal to infants. Miss Ida Mitchinson, 14 years of age, and Mr. John Mitchinson deposed to having purchased "Mother's True Friend" from defendant, and Mr. E. J. Eastes, London, stated the result of his analysis. There was enough poison in the bottle, he said, to kill two grown-up persons. Very much less than 1 gr. of morphine would kill a child; it all depended upon the age. Mr. Hare, for the defence, urged that the fluid contained less than  $\frac{1}{5}$  gr. to the ounce, and the mixture contained an antimonial wine, which would, in the event of an overdose or attempt at poison, defeat the object, because the wine would act as an emetic. Defendant elected to give evidence, and in doing so said his sale of "Mother's True Friend" amounted to 2 gallons per week, and he had sold it for twelve years. He admitted he had paid to the Pharmaceutical Society 25s. in fines for five separate offences in selling "Mother's True Friend." His Honor imposed a fine of 5s., and costs.

AMONGST FOREIGN SCIENTISTS who have been elected officers of the Legion of Honour are Lord Rayleigh and Professor William Ramsay.



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LABELS AND THE MEDICINE-STAMP ACT.

MR. J. BRINDLEY JAMES, physician, Bridge Road, W., writes in the *British Medical Journal* a letter which we hope will come under the notice of the Inland Revenue authorities.



Mr. James relates the case of a patient of his, a lady who had taken, as a medicinal dose, "half a small teacupful of ammoniated tincture of quinine." Of course, the resulting symptoms were very alarming, but treatment with olive oil *ad lib.* and a mixture containing Mackey's mist. bis. co. and Battley's liq. opii sed., 1 dr. of each with water to 6 oz., taken in 1-oz. doses, restored her.

The question which first occurred to Mr. James in connection with this occurrence was, Why have we no law prohibiting chemists from selling indiscriminately large quantities of this drug to people at large without its dose being clearly specified on the bottle? Instead of at once rushing to the conclusion, as many of his professional brethren would have done, that here was another specimen of the assassinatory tendencies of the perfidious chemist, Mr. James seems to have had the fairness to make inquiries, and he ascertained "that the law, as it now stands, diametrically opposes so desirable a precaution, druggists being forbidden to name a dose on a bottle containing ammoniated quinine unless they affix thereto a Governmental stamp, thus making it a patent medicine, which, in point of fact, signifies that this poor lady, to say nothing of innumerable others, might quietly die unconscious self-poisoners to safeguard some paltry trade or revenue considerations."

This is not an exact statement of the case. To simply name the dose of a medicine on the label would not render it liable to medicine-stamp duty. But it would be difficult in a great many cases to state the dose without saying in what class of cases such doses were suitable. It is this addition which would involve liability.

The Board of Inland Revenue are not entirely responsible for the maintenance of this unsatisfactory technicality. It is, of course, obvious that a general permission to state doses or purposes on labels of medicines would practically repeal the Medicine-stamp Acts altogether, and the Board of Inland Revenue have not the power to do this. But it would not be at all difficult to draw up a set of labels for Pharmacopœia preparations which the Board might sanction, and the use of which would be of much service to the public—sometimes, perhaps, even to the extent of saving life. Soon after Sir Alfred Milner became Chairman of the Board we were able to state on perfect authority that he was willing to confer with any truly representative body of chemists, with a view to an agreement in this very direction. He fully appreciated the desirability of such action, and his invitation to those who controlled the affairs of pharmacy was as cordial as an official intimation could be. The Pharmaceutical Council did not see their way to negotiate at the time, but to this hour we cannot see any reason why they should not render this service to the trade. The Medical Council or its Pharmacopœia Committee might undertake the task, but it comes more properly within the scope of the Pharmaceutical Society. All that is necessary is to draw up a series of labels for Pharmacopœia preparations, and perhaps some few others, indicating uses and doses, and we believe the Board of Inland Revenue would willingly sanction the employment of these if they were satisfied that no unfair advantage could be taken of such permission.

### CALOMEL-POWDERS.

RECENT inquiries which we have received indicate that some in the trade are in need of instruction regarding the changes which may occur when calomel is put up in the form of powders, and at the risk of repeating what must be familiar to many, we venture once more to state what is known about the matter. The necessity for this would not have arisen if the commonly available pharmaceutical text-

books had taken note of the matter, but even our own "Art of Dispensing" (which should have known better) is silent on the subject so far as sugar is concerned, unless we include it in an "&c." However, knowledge of the fact that some change does occur in calomel-powders is not likely to become extinct in pharmacy, as at various times during the past thirty years or more the matter has come to the surface, and has feebly agitated the trade. Such a circumstance creates an impression more or less lasting, and perhaps this note may instruct the rising generation.

If we mistake not, Mr. Darling, of Manchester, was the first in this country to thoroughly investigate the probable changes which occur when calomel is mixed with powdered cane-sugar, or with milk-sugar; but before him several continental investigators had looked into the matter, and it was agreed that calomel-and-sugar powders sooner or later show evidence of the presence of corrosive sublimate. This is particularly the case when the powders are divided, wrapped up in papers ready for serving out, and exposed in drawers where they are under the influence of ammonia and aqueous vapours: such conditions unquestionably favour decomposition of the calomel, mercury being liberated and evidence of the presence of mercuric salt being obtained. Dr. G. Vulpus in 1871 took up the matter, and came to the conclusion, from experiments of which he gave details, that mixtures of calomel, cane-sugar, and bicarbonate of soda undoubtedly contain corrosive sublimate at the end of three months, especially if the powder becomes damp; and we may add that under ordinary conditions it rarely does not. Dr. Vulpus did not find calcined and carbonate of magnesia produce the change except when the powder was boiled with water. Six years later the subject agitated Italian pharmacy and M. Jolly looked into it with the result of a paper, a translation of which was given in our issue of October, 1877; unfortunately, his experiments were all made in the wet way, which is not a fair reproduction of the ordinary conditions of storage. However, his conclusion that sugars as diluents are bad because they are either acid or alkaline indicates a sure means of change, for both acids and alkalies effect decomposition of calomel. Mr. F. M. Corwin, of New York, proved this about the same time. In consequence of these reports Dr. Vulpus returned to the subject again, and came to the same conclusions as before, viz:—

In mixtures of calomel with sugar, milk-sugar, magnesia, carbonate of magnesia, and bicarbonate of soda, no corrosive sublimate is formed within twenty-four hours; nor in three months in mixtures of calomel with magnesia, carbonate of magnesia, and sugar.

After three months corrosive sublimate can be detected in a mixture of calomel, bicarbonate of soda, and milk-sugar, and a larger quantity of cane-sugar takes the place of milk-sugar.

Powders of calomel and magnesia or bicarbonate of soda give corrosive sublimate if digested with water.

These results have been corroborated by Mr. P. Hoglan an American pharmacist. The one unsatisfactory thing about all the work is that it is merely qualitative, for not a single experimenter has determined the amount of corrosive sublimate formed. We imagine that Dr. Vulpus would have done so had he been able, but the fact is that the experimental quantities were not weighable. The nature of the decomposition is such that the eye suffices to detect an appreciable change, a trace of black mercurous oxide (formed simultaneously with the mercuric salt) sufficing to give a white calomel-powder a grey tint. Such a powder may be a risky thing to give a child.

The sum and substance of the whole matter is that a mixture of calomel and sugar is a perfectly safe thing to keep in a stoppered bottle; if put up in powders the paper



should be impervious, and if kept more than two months they should be stored in an air-tight box. All this coincides with replies which we have given to correspondents recently. But there is another aspect to the matter. Is calomel active *per se*? We know that in practice it is one of the best liver-remedies we have; yet Professor Rutherford found it to be a weak hepatic stimulant, while mercuric chloride is a powerful one. Therefore, is the action of calomel not due to mercuric chloride formed in the alimentary tract? The probability is that it is. The conditions are entirely favourable, and Dr. Vulpinus mentions that "doctors do not at all fear the partial alteration of calomel into mercuric chloride which occurs in the intestinal canal, but they look upon it rather as a tangible proof of its efficacy." Experiments by Tuson, Jolly, and others substantiate the fact, and we may recall the remarks by Dr. Lauder Brunton three years ago (*C. & D.* xli. 878) to the effect that he found ten  $\frac{1}{20}$ -gr. calomel pilules act more powerfully than a 10-gr. powder of calomel or ten  $\frac{1}{20}$ -gr. freshly-made pilules. The first pilules were found to contain corrosive sublimate, and he preferred them. It follows that there is no cause for anxiety in selling plain calomel-and-sugar powders, but the addition of alkalis to them should be avoided. If an alkali is wanted, better give it in combination with hydrarg. c. cretâ, which never causes anxiety, although it is seldom free from a trace of mercuric oxide.

#### THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE AND PHARMACY.

ON December 16, Lord Herschell, chairman of the governing body of the Imperial Institute, delivered an address on the work of the Institute during the past season. The address is printed in full in the current issue of the *Imperial Institute Journal*, and contains a good many notes of interest to pharmacists. One of the best-arranged and most useful sections of the Institute, as we pointed out when it was opened, is that relating to our Indian Empire. Several firms, we are informed, have been inquiring for Mahwa and Kokam butters, and similar fixed edible oils, which are now in large demand for margarine-making purposes. Samples of these oils are now on the way from India, and the whole question of the properties and value of Indian edible oils is about to be investigated. A German chemist (Dr. Max Lehmann, of Wittenburg)—German chemists, by the way, seem to be among the most frequent and successful applicants for the services of the Institute—has asked for a supply of seed of *Entada scandens*, a plant in which he has discovered a new blue colouring-matter, and this has been sent on to him. *Datisca cannabina* is being procured from India for Dr. Schunck, F.R.S., of Manchester, the well-known authority on vegetable dye-stuffs. A London firm has been put in communication with an Indian house for the supply of mica, and a sample of eucalyptus oil distilled at Ootacamund, on the Nilgiris, by the Government authorities has attracted the notice of several merchants, who were unaware that such an oil was prepared in India. "Messrs. Allen & Hanburys and S. Figgis & Co. have examined specimens, and reported very favourably as to its quality. The Government of India has been informed of this, and attention was directed at the same time to the dark colour of the sample received, due probably to want of care in its preparation, which would be likely to affect the market-value of the oil prejudicially."

A shrub called *Adhatoda vasica* (belonging to the order *Acanthaceæ*), which occurs more or less plentifully throughout India, has there been found to possess antiseptic and insecticidal properties.

Dr. G. Watt first noticed the employment of its leaves upon the land of recently-flooded fields under preparation for rice-crops in the valley of the Sutlej, for the purpose of preventing the germination of the lower forms of vegetable growth. The value of a fresh infusion of the green leaves in protecting tea-plantations from the "mosquito-blight" and other insect-pests has been demonstrated, and is being made the subject of more extensive trial by tea-planters in India. The virtue of the leaves resides, Mr. Hooper believes, in a crystallisable alkaloid. At the suggestion of Dr. Lauder Brunton, Professor Giacosa, of the University of Turin, has been supplied with samples of dried *Adhatoda* leaves to investigate their therapeutic properties, but in his experiments he failed to obtain the alkaloid spoken of by Mr. Hooper, but found them to be rich in potassium nitrate. It is possible that the active principle in the fresh leaves undergoes change when the latter are dried; indeed, a Mr. Bamber, of Kirkee, states that the leaves change rapidly in property when soaked in water, and when the aqueous extract is kept.

During the year the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Institute has dealt with a large number of inquiries, some of them of pharmaceutical interest, and ranging from requests for the enumeration of the sources of fullers' earth in India, and the supply of Sierra Leone copal gum, to the quantity of oil of vitriol exported from Great Britain to India, its method of packing, rates of freight, &c. Many of these inquiries are of a kind habitually addressed to trade journals by their readers, and the Imperial Institute people will probably find, as they gather experience, that the task of serving as guide, philosopher, and friend to the world at large is an irksome and thankless one. We do not quite see on what grounds the Institute, which is strictly British in origin and scope, should answer inquiries relating to the sale of patent medicines in Germany, or supply information to the Antwerp Commercial Museum or the German Consulate in London, but good reasons could no doubt be given for these steps. Sir Frederick Abel himself has been giving attention to the price of camphor, and suggests, in answer to Mr. Thiselton Dyer, that as the substance has been used for many years past for the conversion of collodion cotton into celluloid, the increasing demand for this purpose may explain the advance in price.

The "Research Department" of the Institute has been busy. Professors Hummel and Perkin, of the Yorkshire College, Leeds, have examined the tinctorial properties of various Indian dye-stuffs (*Oldenlandia umbellata*, *Rubia sikkimensis*, *Morinda citrifolia*, *Morinda umbellata*, *Myrica Nagi*, &c.), their results being communicated to the Indian Government. As the dye-stuffs in question have been largely superseded in India itself by aniline dyes, and cannot possibly hope to get a grip of the European markets in competition with coal-tar substances, the investigation in question is about as likely to lead to practical results as the labour of the daughter of Danaüs. More good is likely to come from the work of Professor Armstrong, who is investigating several varieties of turpentine from Indian trees, in order to determine which of them can be utilised in India for meeting local demands for oil of turpentine, but we fancy this is a matter for bibliographic rather than chemical research. "Professor Wyndam (*sic*) Dunstan is engaged upon the investigation of the drugs *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Aconitum ferox*, and *Podophyllum Emodi*, and results which promise to be of considerable medicinal importance have already been obtained. Professor Dunstan has also been furnished with a supply of *Chione glabra* from the Trinidad Collection, and is engaged upon the investigation of its medicinal properties." Mr. Merck, of Darmstadt, undertook the



examination of samples of Malwa opium, and the results arrived at by him led to the issue of a circular to the agents throughout the opium-producing provinces, suggesting the carrying-out of systematic practical experiments for the purpose of determining the influence of certain variable practices, in connection with the production of opium, upon the proportion of morphia. Here again the Department might have saved the reference to Darmstadt by reading up official publications.

The examination of "some other medicinal products" by Mr. J. C. Umney led to suggestions respecting their preparation as bearing upon their quality, which were communicated to the Indian Government. The manufacture of cassie pomade, which used to be carried on in India, appears to have been discontinued of late, since the death of a planter at Naina Tal, who used to send supplies to London. Mr. C. Umney reported that this pomade was of excellent quality, being superior to that made at Grasse, and the attention of the Agriculture and Revenue Department was directed to this by the Institute authorities. A large number of specimens of essential oils and extracts prepared by the Government of Victoria at Dunolly, has been sent to the Imperial Institute with a view to their examination and valuation as marketable products, and these are now being dealt with. Messrs. Deering and Boverton Redwood undertook the examination of a series of twenty-three samples of castor oil from different districts of India, and furnished a valuable report, which was communicated to the Government of India, who have specially acknowledged its usefulness.

Steps have also been taken, with the aid of special funds secured by the Institute authorities from the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 and from the Goldsmiths' Company, to fit up and equip a commodious laboratory and an instrument-room, and to engage the services of a qualified staff of workers, with a view to the conduct of analytical and other experimental investigations in the Institute itself. This department commenced operations in October, 1894, and the work of examination of products included in the collections has been actively proceeded with since then.

#### APPRENTICES TO COMPANIES IN IRELAND.

THE first result of the contest into which the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland have entered with the champions of company pharmacy has been a notable victory won after one of the keenest arguments in the annals of pharmaceutical history. This result can have no influence on the general dispute, and it is hardly likely to be of much value intrinsically. No one can help sympathising with the altogether undeserved difficulty which has been thrown in the way of the plaintiff in the case of Cleeland *v.* the Society. He at least is in no way responsible, and we hope with the Judges that some way may be found whereby he can be legally admitted to examination. But apart from the personal aspect it is not unsatisfactory that companies who undertake the exploitation of pharmacy should at last be paid back in the same coin with which they have paid the legitimate trade since the decision in the case of the London and Provincial Supply Association. They then argued themselves out of the responsibilities of persons, and they are now debarred from the privileges of persons. Mr. Cleeland was apprenticed to one of the historic pharmacies of Ireland. Subsequently that business was converted into a company, and the statutory declaration of service necessary to a candidate for the qualifying examination could only be signed on behalf of the company. The Society's regulations

stipulate that the candidate must have been in the service of a pharmaceutical chemist, registered chemist and druggist of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, or apothecary, or of a firm of such legally qualified persons. The first question for the Judges to consider was whether this regulation was a valid one, and, secondly, if so, whether the company could be legally regarded as a firm. On the first point they all reluctantly came to the conclusion that the by-law, having been approved by the prevailing Council and submitted to Parliament, had the full force of a statute, although in the opinion of Mr. Justice Holmes the by-law was in direct contradiction to the meaning of the section of the Act which authorised it. The validity of the regulation being admitted the Court found themselves unable to recognise the company as a firm, and in any case it is quite clear that it was not a firm of qualified persons. The effect of the judgment will be that an apprenticeship with a company cannot count as any part of the period necessarily preliminary to examination. The remarks of Mr. Justice Holmes on the principle of company pharmacy were entirely uncalled for, and based on an insufficient and inaccurate knowledge of the controversy so familiar to ourselves. Before so confidently asserting that the public had no reason to complain so long as the company employed a qualified manager, he should at least have considered that this condition is not permitted in any civilised country in the world outside of Anglo-Saxondom, and he might judge from that that there is some good reason for the objection, although he may not be able to perceive it unaided.

#### OUR WINTER ISSUE.

It is customary for us to go to press a day earlier than usual with our half-yearly issues, and as one of these (the Winter Issue) comes on next week, we shall be obliged if correspondents and reporters will send in not later than Tuesday any matters for that issue. This observation also applies to all trade matters to be dealt with in that number. We may also call the attention of advertisers to the note on the first page of this issue. We cannot too strongly urge the importance of the "Winter Issue" for business purposes, and the desirability of taking advantage of it.

#### ASSAYING SPT. ÆTHER. NITROSI.

Mr. David Walker, Ph.G., proposes to estimate the nitrite value of spirit of nitrous ether by direct titration of a mixture of the spirit, acetic acid, and iodide of potassium, contained in an Erlenmeyer flask, with sodium-thiosulphate solution, and he says the method "will give nearly or quite as accurate results as the nitrometer." We quote from the *American Druggist*. Mr. Walker is apparently unaware that this method was suggested by Mr. D. B. Dott a dozen years ago, and had to be abandoned on account of the fallacious results, for whenever the nitric oxide liberated by decomposition of the ethyl nitrite comes in contact with the air of the flask  $N_2O_4$  is formed. This at once decomposes more of the alkaline iodide—indeed, decomposition might go on indefinitely if the supply of air and iodide were large enough. It was his knowledge of the difficulties of this method which led Mr. A. H. Allen to effect the reaction in an air-free space and estimate the nitric oxide instead of the iodine.

#### MINOR VOLUMETRIC WORK.

May we again call the attention of the members of the Pharmaceutical Council to the volumetric work given by the Galen Place examiners? The examination schedule requires candidates to "perform those volumetric determinations which are described in the British Pharmacopoeia." This is so precise as to be impossible of misconstruction. Yet out-



of fourteen operations given at the examination this month (see page ) ten go beyond the syllabus requirements. We question the legality of this proceeding, but, apart from that, it reflects very badly upon the Pharmaceutical Council that their instructions are deliberately overridden by a body appointed by them. Minor candidates are not required to make up volumetric solutions, but simply to perform the determinations described in the Pharmacopœia, and we presume that if the Council had intended, when drafting the schedule, that candidates should have a complete knowledge of volumetric analysis they would have said so. It will also be noticed that several of the processes given are not pharmacopœial, and although it is possible to argue that the candidates ought to know, for instance, how to estimate ferrous sulphate with standard permanganate, that is an argument which, if extended to every department of the examination, would reduce the passes to *nil*. The only hope which a candidate has of getting through such volumetric work is to be coached by a man who knows the examiners' ways, which are, therefore, a direct encouragement of "cram."

#### A CHEMIST'S TESTIMONIAL.

A South of England chemist makes a corn-cure which possesses the usual miraculous virtues. In his price-list he publishes a testimonial to this preparation, the writer of which says he has "tried several other corn-solvents but has found none so good as this one." After printing this the chemist proudly remarks that "after reading evidence from so reliable a source, surely no one who is troubled with corns can persist in believing that they are not curable, or hesitate to remove them by the use of" his application. It is a little staggering in the face of this to find in a local newspaper a testimonial appearing in a chiropodist's advertisement from this very chemist, stating that "Mr. — has this day removed several corns without pain and to my satisfaction."

#### A PROPHET IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.

Comparatively few English chemists are aware of the strong undercurrent of disparagement of Professor James Dewar's work in low-temperature research which exists in London chemical circles. His recent lecture to the Chemical Society was a public justification of the *bona fides* of his aims which was as unexpected as it was good tempered. We have an indication of how the irritation is kept up in the new edition of Thorpe's "Manual of Inorganic Chemistry," wherein are nine pages on the liquefaction of gases, the description being mainly historical, and in these pages there is not a single word in reference to Professor Dewar or any of the improvements on the liquefaction of gases effected by him. Nor are his vacuum-jacketed vessels, perhaps the most important innovation in this department of research introduced during the past decade, referred to.

#### THE POWER OF IMAGINATION.

Mr. Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S., tells, in the *British Medical Journal*, how, some years ago, a young woman was admitted into the London Hospital with the assurance that she had swallowed a small plate of false teeth during her sleep. She was in very great distress, complained of severe and well-localised pain in the stomach, and was very constantly sick. The clinical phenomena were of an exaggerated type, and it was assumed that, under a suitable palliative treatment the symptoms would soon pass off. This, however, was not the result. The patient became worse. The pain did not abate; she could take no food; she continued to retch and vomit, and some five days after her admission Mr. Treves was sent for, as the patient was considered by the house-surgeon to be in a critical condition. He made an incision into the abdomen, and palpated all parts of the stomach. Nothing abnormal was discovered, and the wound was

closed. The patient was at once relieved of her symptoms, and some two days after the operation the plate of teeth was discovered in a drawer in the patient's room!

## Marriages.

GOLDON—CORCORAN.—January 7, at Clareen Chnrch, by the Rev. Thomas Phelan, Adm. Henry Vincent Goldon, M.P.S.I., youngest son of the late Dr. Goldon, Parsonstown, to Katie, only daughter of Mr. James Corcoran, J.P., Oakley Park, Parsonstown.

WALBURN—RHIND.—At 53 Castle Street, Edinburgh, on January 13, by declaration and warrant of the Sheriff of the Lothians and Peebles, Arthur William Walburn, chemist, West Hartlepool, to Isabella Laing, third daughter of the late George Rhind, sculptor, Edinburgh.

## Deaths.

BAXTER.—On January 4, Mr. William Baxter, chemist and druggist, 259 Great Horner Street, Liverpool.

BETTS.—On January 6, Edith, wife of Mr. Reginald Betts, chemist, Framlingham, Norfolk. Aged 25 years.

DAVIDSON.—On January 12, Mr. T. R. Davidson, chemist, Morpeth. Mr. Davidson was at business on Saturday as usual, and at 10 o'clock closed and drove home in a close conveyance, on account of a cold from which he was suffering. Shortly after entering his house he had an apoplectic seizure, from which he died the next day. He was a native of Morpeth, and for many years was in business in Bedlington. About twelve years ago he moved from Bedlington and commenced business in Morpeth.

IRVINE.—On December 28, at his residence, Medical Hall Main Street, Castlederg, Mr. Joseph Caldwell Irvine, L.P.S.I.

MICHIE.—On January 2, Mr. Henry Michie, chemist and druggist, Marywell, N.B. Aged 74.

OGDEN.—On January 4, Mr. Henry Ogden, chemist and druggist, Leeds. Aged 55.

RAE.—On January 14, Mr. John Rae, chemist and druggist, Newmarket. Mr. Rae retired from business eighteen months ago, and was succeeded by Mr. J. W. Carr. Aged 53.

RITSON.—On December 27, Mr. John Ritson, chemist and druggist, Manchester. Aged 63.

YOUNG.—Mr. William Fulton Young, chemist and druggist, Kilmarnock, died suddenly in his father's house on January 5. He retired to rest shortly after 10 o'clock, having previously been playing an organ for some time; and half an hour later he was found dead on the floor of his bedroom by a brother. Deceased, who was about 30 years of age, was the eldest son of Mr. Thomas Young, whose business in King Street he had only lately taken over in his own name.

Mr. X—, a prominent manufacturer of "Malt-coffee"—a dietetic beverage much affected by Germans with whom the ordinary coffee drunk at the breakfast-tables of the Fatherland disagrees—was one of a party of excursionists at a country hotel. One of his fellow-travellers having made a bet that he would cause Mr. X— publicly to denounce his own speciality, quietly handed a packet of "X's Malt-coffee" to the waiter before breakfast, with instructions to brew that particular preparation for Mr. X—, who never drank anything else. Presently the excursionists gathered at the table. Mr. X— slowly poured out his coffee and inhaled the aroma amid general attention. "Wretched coffee at this hotel," said he, and proceeded to take a sip. With a wry face he gulped down the beverage and called violently for the waiter. "Look here," said he to that functionary. "What do you mean by serving such disgraceful rubbish in a first-class hotel? Take the miserable stuff away to—." General laughter drowned the remainder of the sentence.



## Miscellaneous Notes.

THE following notes were read at the meeting of the Chemists' Assistants' Association on Thursday evening by Mr. William Elborne, B.A., F.C.S., pharmacist at University College Hospital.

*Commercial Hydrogen Peroxide.*—Ozonic ether is considerably used by students as a reagent in testing for blood. In preparing it from equal volumes of ether. meth. ( $^{\circ}$ 720), hydrogen peroxide (10 vols.), and spt. vini meth. (64 o.p.), a sediment appears on standing, sometimes scanty and gelatinous, at other times voluminous and crystalline. On examination the gelatinous sediment proved to be potassium silicofluoride, the crystalline sediment sodium silicofluoride, and both attributable to the hydrogen peroxide. The preparation of the latter is associated in the text-books with the decomposition of harium peroxide either with carbonic-acid gas or dilute sulphuric acid; but in the residues of the samples examined Mr. Elborne has never found barium, and from the composition of the above sediments it would seem that at present it is prepared from potassium and sodium peroxides by decomposing with hydrofluosilicic acid. The sp gr. of a sample was 1.037, and it yielded a residue (dry at  $212^{\circ}$  F.) equivalent to 3.5 per cent. of sodium silicofluoride; the average sp gr. of five other samples was 1.015, yielding an average residue of 0.3 per cent. of potassium silicofluoride. Hydrogen peroxide is at all times sufficiently prone to decomposition on keeping, but the above abnormal sample which contained so much sodium salt was far more explosive (in the sense of bursting the bottle) than the others.

*Glycerinum Amyli.*—The present B.P. formula containing water yields an unsatisfactory product, which will not keep without separating into lumps and a liquid portion; when made without the water according to the B.P. 1867, a product is obtained which keeps well and better answers our requirements. It is used in the U.C.H. chiefly as an extemporaneous basis for pasta iodi et amyli, the formula for which is liq. iodi 1 part, glyc. amyli 7 parts.

*Glycerinum Plumbi Subacetatis*—The B.P. process is cumbersome. In the prolonged evaporation with constant stirring the temperature of the liquid rises above  $280^{\circ}$  F., accompanied with dense white fumes containing some of the glycerine, and this is carried on "until the water is dissipated," which probably would not be effected until you had got it down to dryness. A process which will be found very easy and to yield a satisfactory product is as follows:—

	Pint
Solution of subacetate of lead .. ..	1
Glycerine .. ..	1

Evaporate the solution of subacetate of lead in a porcelain dish until it becomes pasty; then transfer the dish with its contents to a water-bath, and evaporate to dryness; now finally remove from the water-bath, add the glycerine, and dissolve with aid of heat.

*Potassii Iodidum.*—Having occasion to use potassium iodide in concentrated aqueous solution, one cannot fail to observe that under similar conditions of storage, some solutions after about forty-eight hours have developed considerable yellow colour, gradually deepening, due to liberation of iodine, while others remain colourless and apparently unchanged. This difference in behaviour is attributable to the kind of commercial salt used, that occurring in semi-transparent crystals neutral to test-paper (and apparently the purer salt) rapidly developing free iodine, and that occurring in white opaque alkaline crystals yielding the apparently permanent colourless solutions. Solutions of the former kept for a month in the dark did not show any sign of decomposition, so that exposure to light is evidently a factor in the change, in conjunction with the oxygen of the air. Now the official description in the Pharmacopœia—"in colourless generally opaque crystals . . . commonly with a feeble alkaline reaction"—recognises both these varieties, and although the inconvenience likely to arise therefrom is small, yet I imagine, for uniformity's sake, the alkaline variety is preferable for medicinal use, provided the amount of alkali (which is generally potassium carbonate) were limited to, say, about 0.3 per cent. This is one of those peculiar instances in which the very purity aimed at and attained is likely sometimes to become an inconvenience.

*Ammonii Iodidum.*—Ordinary commercial samples of this salt when received generally possess a most pungent odour of ammonia, and when in the course of time the free ammonia has escaped, the salt turns of a deep yellow colour, due to liberation of iodine, to prevent which it is customary to keep suspended in the bottle with it a lump of ammonium carbonate. According to the U.S.P. it is prepared by double decomposition between ammonium sulphate and potassium iodide, and it has occurred to me that if before the evaporation about 0.3 per cent. of potassium carbonate were allowed to be added (provided it would effectually prevent the subsequent development of iodine) there could be no more objection to its presence than in potassium iodide itself. A sample so prepared was exhibited. It was perfectly white.

*Bismuthi Carbonas.*—The B.P. describes this substance as a white powder. Of late we have been receiving a pale yellowish-white carbonate, which gives a different appearance to our bismuth mixtures, and is not so popular as the white. What the cause of this yellowness is I do not know, but a manufacturer informs me that he notices it whenever Saxony bismuth is used as the source, and that while the moist precipitate is perfectly white, the yellowness appears on drying. The U.S.P. describes this salt as a white or pale yellowish-white powder.

*Zinci Oxidum.*—The B.P. recognises two oxides—one a white powder prepared by combustion of the metal, the other a yellowish white powder prepared by calcination of the carbonate. According to the books the white variety appears to be in disrepute, it being spoken of as being gritty and liable to be contaminated with particles of the metal. Such, however, is not our experience of it, and for some years our dispensers have preferred it to the yellowish white kind, saying that it makes a much better ointment.

*Mist. Sennæ Co.*—In this medicine a sediment appears on keeping, and it seems that it is of a very purgative character. What the nature of it is, some of you may possibly be able to explain. Whatever it may be it sufficiently indicates that the preparation should be well shaken before refilling bottles from stone jars, &c., or before apportioning a dose.

*Pil. Aloes et Ferri.*—A common complaint in reference to this preparation is that it contains too much aloes; the idea associated with the subject is rather the administration of iron with a little aloes (usually a 5-gr. pill twice a day for a week or more), and the following formula is commonly adopted for the purpose:—

	Gr.
Dried sulphate of iron .. ..	3
Socotrine aloes .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
Conf. roses .. ..	q.s. for one pill

*Cocus wood.*—Dr. Radcliffe Crocker, physician in charge of the Skin department at University College Hospital recently drew the author's attention to the following case:—A sawyer, aged 23, suffering from dermatitis on face and neck, the inflammation having commenced within two hours after sawing cocus-wood, first about the nose and chin, and then spreading all over face and ears and upper half of neck. Five days after treatment the face was very red and covered with peeling epidermis mixed with dried exudation, so that the aspect was of an ordinary eczema. The ears were swollen and extremely red, and discharged. The patient ascribed the inflammation to the irritation of the sawdust, which is very fine, the wood being extremely hard. It excited irritation in other workmen engaged in the same shop, but none had been so badly affected as patient, who had twice before been attacked in the same way. It frequently excites sneezing when the wood is being sawn, inflammation being generally limited to the arms. Cocus or kokra wood, is yielded by species of *Aporosa*, Bl., a genus belonging to the natural order *Euphorbiaceæ*. There are about twenty species, trees, natives of tropical Asia and Oceania. The wood is used chiefly for making musical instruments, and, as seen in a transverse section of a log, the central heart-wood, which is very hard, closely grained, and of a dark-brown colour, is sharply limited by the white sapwood.

A species which grows in the forests of Burmah, from Pegu, to Martaban, is said to yield a red resin and a bark which is used as a red dye. About 20 tons per month come into London. From its effects cocus wood appears,



therefore, to participate in the notoriety of the *Euphorbiaceæ*, an order abounding in acrid and poisonous plants, such as the physic nut (*Jatropha*), croton oil, and manchineel (*Hippomane*).

The heartwood of the sample yielded on analysis—

	Per cent.
Moisture .. .. .	10.0
Substance soluble in petroleum ether .. .. .	0.0
Soluble in ether—a red resin .. .. .	8.6
Soluble in abs. alcohol—tannin and coloring matter .. .. .	6.1
Soluble in water.. .. .	7.2
Insoluble fibre .. .. .	68.1
	100.00

## Trade Notes.

MESSES. SINCLAIR, PHILLIPS & Co., who have commenced the manufacture of concentrated pharmaceutical preparations, offer them on special terms for a month.

MR. JACOB HUGHES, of Penarth, has placed with Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons, the sole wholesale agency for his Blood-pills, Dropsy-pills, Pike's powders, and other specialities.

TRADE ALMANACS, &C.—We reported last week on Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s "Chemist's Vest-pocket Diary and Ready Reckoner"—"Reference" is the proper word.—Messrs. Typke & King, chemical-manufacturers, 7 Jeffrey's Square, St. Mary Axe, E.C., are issuing to their customers a pretty easel calendar with movable days and months, which can be altered every morning.—Mr. W. Turner, chemist, Chester, has distributed two kinds of pocket almanacs this year—one the ordinary stock affair, the other a tiny memo. book with calendar on the inside of the cover. The latter has been by far the more popular, and from this experience other chemists may take a hint. There is nothing which pleases the majority of people so much as a free note-book.—Messrs. Spong & Son, of Biggleswade, have published their forty-sixth annual household almanac, which is substantially a local directory, with a diary, useful tables, and a great deal of good reading such as country people like. The almanac is bulky, and is priced at a penny. We have received similar almanacs from Mr. H. Payne, of Welshpool, and Mr. Joseph H. Watson, of Shipley, the former being distinguished by smart little woodcuts—From Mr. Frederick Stearns, of Detroit, we have received a beautiful calendar printed by his firm's press. It is an example of photography in colours produced by the photo-mechanical process and representing a vase of flowers (tea and blush roses, tulips and orchids) reproduced in their natural colours. It is difficult to imagine from the artistic quality of the picture that we are just on the threshold of a new development in art, the possibilities of which are still undreamt of. For instance, with Ives' triple-lense camera and colour-screens we can obtain three negatives which carry (in black) the colours of a landscape, and it is as easy as possible to convert these into half-tone engravings, so that all that remains to print them are a perfect printing-machine (which we have) and printing-inks which will blend yet dry quickly. Perfection in the last-mentioned direction has still to be sought, and pharmacists may join in the search with some hope of success. It was a pharmacist who made postage-stamp printing possible by improving printer's ink. Why may not another make perfect colour-printing possible?—Mr. Albert M. Todd, the peppermint-oil distiller, of Kalanazoo, Mich., sends us two beautiful examples of American lithograph. One is a wall-calendar, resplendent in feminine loveliness; the other the "Happy Days Calendar," consisting of twelve embossed edge sheets, on each of which there is a month's calendar, and floral designs with a group of children as the central attraction. Each of the sheets is typical of the month which it carries.

ARGON has been found by Kellas and Ramsay in the gas which comes off from "Allhusen's Well," and in gas from other wells, but they could not obtain the helium lines.

## Bankruptcy Report.

Re WM. HARRISON, 29 Castle Street, Clitheroe, Chemist and Druggist.

ON January 13, at the Blackburn County Court, Judge Coventry heard an application to approve of the proposal by the debtor to pay a composition of 7s. 6d. in the pound. The Official Receiver presented his report upon the bankruptcy, which showed that a composition of 7s. 6d. in the pound had been agreed upon by three-fourths of the creditors. His Honour said the business carried on by the debtor had been an honest enough one, but his fault had been in not calling a meeting of his creditors sooner, and laying his case before them. His Honour discharged the receiving order and annulled the adjudication.

## Gazette.

### PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Berger, A. J., and King, C. S., under the style of S. King, St. Petersburg, manufacturers of varnish and paint.  
Kinnier, F. W. E., and Kirsopp, T., under the style of Kinnier & Kirsopp, Horsham, surgeons, apothecaries, and accoucheurs.  
Pasley, J. E., and Dowson, W. E., under the style of Pasley & Dowson, Manchester, indigo merchants and dyers.  
Philpots, J. R., and Masters, W. H., under the style of Philpots & Masters, Parastone, physicians and surgeons.  
Poingdestre, C. R., Truman, F. W., and Truman, H. V., under the style of Poingdestre & Truman, Old Kent Road and Newington Butts, S.E., chemists and druggists.  
Richardson, W. C., and Taylor, J. H., under the style of Richardson & Taylor, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, Lancashire, chemists and druggists.  
Wood, J., and Rees, F., Wigan, surgeons.

## Deed of Arrangement.

Stott, Ernest Lucius, 46 Green Street, Bank Quay, Warrington, chemist and druggist. Trustee, Isaac H. Skinner, 9 Fountain Street, Halifax, accountant. Secured creditors, 244/17s. 6d. Dated January 3; filed January 10. Unsecured liabilities, 230/8s. Estimated net assets, 35/. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	68	0	0
Helliwell, J. H., Halifax .. .. .	117	0	0
Stott, Mrs. S. B., Luddendenfoot .. .. .	78	0	0

## Trade-Marks Applied for.

ANY person who has good grounds of objection to the registration of any of the following marks should at once communicate with Sir Reader Lack, Comptroller-General, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," January 1, 1896.)

Pictorial representation of Britannia, lion and cock, in fancy design, for perfumes and scents in class 48. By The Société Anglo-Française des Parfums Perfectionnés, (Limited), 263 Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., perfume manufacturers. 190,399.

Figure of hand holding hammer in the act of striking a nail, and wording "Hits the nail on the head"; for chemical substances for use in medicine and pharmacy. By H. D. Brandreth, 22 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, patent-medicine vendor. The essential particular is the device. 188,146.



From "The Trade Marks Journal," January 8, 1896.

Figure of monkey eating nut, with wording "Monkey brand"; also figure of revolver, and wording "Revolver brand"; for chemical substances used in manufactures, philosophical research, &c. By W. Ewing & Co., 62 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, merchants. 191,022, 191,661.

Device of label on drum of sheep dip, with wording "Little's patent fluid-dip." &c.; for sheep-dip. By Morris, Little & Son, 13 Priory Place, Doncaster, manufacturers. The essential particular is the label device. 189,597.

"AMULET," and monogram of applicant; for a fomentation for horses. By T. H. Essery, 23 Middle Street, Trillick, Pontypridd, herbalist. The essential particular is the word "Amulet." 191,380.

"PRUFIG"; for medicated preparations for human use. By The New York Export and Import Company, 91 Liberty Street, New York, U.S.A., drug manufacturers. 190,864.

"LOUENE," and wording on oblong label on black ground; for a hyponotic, narcotic, and sedative for human use. By The Louene Company, 43 King William Street, London, E.C., patent-medicine manufacturers. 191,616.

"EFFINA FOOD"; for a prepared food for invalids, children, &c. By Arthur John Codling, trading as Waite & Codling, 1 Ormoud Villas, Cheltenham, chemist. 190,472. The essential particular is the word "Effina."

"ZORALIA"; for perfumed soaps. By G. A. Payne, Laurel Lodge, Hunger Hills, Nottingham, soap maker. 189,951.

"TEXTIT"; for perfumery, toilet-articles, &c. By R. W. Harrison & Co., 48 Darwen Street, Blackburn. 191,595.

Signature of applicant, and wording on fancy label; for musk paraffin dry soap. By W. W. Osgerby, Soap and Chemical Works, Hedon Road, Hull, soap manufacturer. 189,835. The essential particular is the signature.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," January 15, 1896.)

"ORPHOL"; for a chemical substance for use in medicine. By Dr. F. Von Heyden Nachfolger, 57 Leipziger Strasse, Radebeul, near Dresden, Germany. 190,732.

"MEDITRINA"; for chemical substances for use in medicine. By W. Digby and J. A. Barham, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Northumberland Avenue, London. 190,792.

"NEBOLINE" and "XENINE"; for a medicine for human internal use. By Oppenheimer, Son & Co. (Limited), 14 Worship Street, London, E.C. 190,798, 190,799.

"VARKO," and wording on round label; for a medicinal preparation for human use. By P. A. Keogh, Mussoorie, N.W.P., India, pharmaceutical chemist. 191,374. The essential particular is the word "Varko."

"BODIASA," and combination of devices on round label with wording; for a medicated ointment for human use. By M. M. Harris, 21 Victoria Road, Fulham, London, S.W., shirt and collar maker. 191,454. The essential particulars are the word "Bodiasa" and the devices.

"SNAED," and other wording on label; for a medicine for human use. By the Snaed Manufacturing Company, 16 Commercial Court, Belfast, medicated-wine manufacturers. 191,549. The essential particular is the word "Snaed."

"KOCOM"; for bed-pans of porcelain and metal specially constructed for surgical or curative purposes. By Elizabeth Phillips, 52 Newgate Street, London, furrier. 190,380.

Device of label, with wording "Keating's Persian Insect-destroying Powder." By Thomas Keating, 12 Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London, E.C., manufacturer. 191,318.

CHEMISTS AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.—During 1895 the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy have closed over 100 drug-stores for undue selling of intoxicating liquors.

## Personalities.

MR. J. F. WALKER, of London Hospital and 65 Bath Street, London, has passed the Second examination of the Conjoint Board in anatomy and physiology.

DR. STANISLAUS MIERZINSKI, who has edited our Austrian contemporary the *Droguisten Zeitung* for many years, has accepted the position of director of a large chemical factory in Russia. He will be succeeded in the editorial chair by Herr Adolph Kaiser.

MR. A. E. EBERT, a Chicago pharmacist, who is known to some in the English drug-trade, has for the third time been asked to "hold up" by a thief. He promptly whipped out his revolver, and he and the thief had a little shooting-match, which did no damage to either. Such is life in Chicago.

WE learn from the *American Druggist* that Mr. Alfred H. Mason, Ph.C., F.C.S., F.R.M.S., &c., has been "elected Secretary to the New York College of Pharmacy in succession to the late J. N. Hegeman. Mr. Mason is an Englishman by birth, having been born in Newcastle-under-Lyme, in Staffordshire, in 1843. He was educated in England, and served his apprenticeship to the drug-trade in Stafford."

MR. TUKE PEARSON WHITE, pharmaceutical chemist, Penistone, Yorkshire, whose death we noted last week, commenced business at Penistone forty-eight years ago, and took a prominent part in the affairs of the town. He was one of the first members, and eventually chairman, of the Local Board. In 1856 his father and mother were murdered at Bolton-on-Deane, and during his absence from home in 1877 his shop was completely burned out.

In a recent conversation with Mr. William Oppenheimer, the managing director of Oppenheimer, Sons & Co. (Limited), that gentleman called our attention to an impression which prevails in the trade to the effect that his business and family are of German origin. Mr. Oppenheimer claims to be as good an Englishman as any of us. He was born in Lancashire. His father was a Dutchman who settled in Manchester, married an English lady, and became a naturalised British subject.

MR. WM. FINCH SMITH, chemist and druggist, of the old-established pharmacy in High Street, Abingdon, in which he succeeded his father a few years since, has presented to the trustees of Tomkins' Almshouses, in The Ock Street, Abingdon, the sum of 1,000*l.* to be invested in Consols, in order to make up the full weekly allowances to the inmates which, owing to the severe and prolonged depression in agricultural values, have for some time been reduced, as the hitherto existing property of the charity has been chiefly invested in landed securities.

MR. R. A. FAIRCLOUGH, whom we interviewed on the subject of pharmacy in Johannesburg last week, points out certain inaccuracies in statements attributed to him. The special war-tax of 15*l.*, for instance, was not levied on all Uitlanders in business, but only on those owning farms and non-resident in the Transvaal. With regard to Mr. Lippert, Mr. Fairclough did not say that Mr. Lippert imported dynamite instead of making it in the Transvaal, but only that he imported the material from which dynamite is made. Nor does Mr. Fairclough possess any positive knowledge of the identity of this Mr. Lippert with the gentleman who is getting up a national subscription in Germany for the wounded Boers. Mr. Fairclough also wishes us to state that we must have misunderstood him in making him say that cyanide of potassium was obtained by him from Frankfort-on-Maine. Mr. Fairclough cannot, of course, be blamed for the appearance of these statements, as he did not see a proof of the article, and it is only right to say that throughout the interview there was no trace in his conversation of personal feeling against any nationality or creed. Especially the statements with regard to the character of the speculators and adventurers on the gold-fields were not made by him.



## The Drug-sales Question.

WHEN Mr. F. S. Hovil, the Chairman of the London Produce Brokers' Association, took up his presidential seat in the rostrum of No. 2 Room of the London Commercial Sale-rooms on Tuesday afternoon, about one hundred druggists, brokers, and importers crowded the floor and the three or four lower tiers of the amphitheatre benches in front of the Chairman's seat. There was plenty of room in the upper tiers, but for some inscrutable reason about half the audience stood blocking up the entrances, too closely packed for comfort or seeing, instead of seating itself on the upper benches. On the Chairman's left was a little knot of brokers, while to his right were grouped about eight members of what is known in Mincing Lane as the "Home Trade," including Messrs. R. Barron, F. H. Lescher, A. S. Hill, Ch. Hodgkinson, and Ch. Umney. The meeting had been called, said Mr. Hovil, in pursuance of a petition signed by a number of firms, and addressed to the London Produce-brokers' Association, urging the advisability of changing the present system of holding fortnightly drug-auctions. The general opinion of the buyers appeared in favour of an alteration, but, on the other hand, the importers of drugs were strongly opposed to any deviation from the present rule. Only that day, for instance, Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., well-known East Indian merchants, had written to say that, for their part, they wished to continue the present system. Whatever the decision that might be taken at that meeting, he thought that only principals or their representatives should be allowed to vote.

Mr. Andrew Devitt, as a broker, wished to ask whether votes by proxy would be allowed. A number of drug-importers for whom his firm acted had given him instructions to vote a certain way, and he considered that those votes should count as one each.

Mr. Richard Barron desired to hear the petition read. This was done by the Chairman, and it appeared that the following firms were the signatories to the document:—Ziegele, Schneidt & Co., A. & G. Fischer, Aug. Faber & Co., Hermann Buchler, Godson & Winterton, R. C. Freatt, Sam Lambert & Co., H. & C. Oldendorff, L. Raiser & Co., Keck & Co., Chas. Gross & Co., M. C. Bauer & Co., H. Brumlen, Horner & Sons, Baiss Brothers & Co., Harker, Stagg & Morgan, E. Meinertzhagen, Theod. Schneider, Alfred Taylor, Grosscurth & Luboldt, W. H. Thorpe, H. Keess & Co., Th. Vasman & Co., C. Cauderlier, Tomkins, Hildesheimer & Co., Otto Brückmann, H. Chotzen & Co., De Lissa, Sons & Co., R. Quincey & Son, and H. Leech & Co. There were thirty all told, a strange medley to one who knows something of Mincing Lane politics.

Mr. G. A. Ziegele opened fire on behalf of the monthly-sale men, and he did so very effectively, although the C. & D. representative, from his seat on the uppermost peak of the Mountain, had some difficulty in following the speaker's words, owing to the defective acoustic properties of the room. Mr. Ziegele drew a sad picture of the present state of the London drug-auctions, in what he looked upon as their decline and fall. His observations were also peppered with certain pungent allusions to everybody in general. The Wholesale Drug Club had carried a resolution in favour of the *status quo*. How had they carried it? By a casting vote. Who gave that vote? Well, Mr. Ziegele, though he had been so many years in the drug-trade, had never heard the name of the firm before. The drug-sales were dwindling to nothing. Business there was no longer wholesale—it was most abominably retail. The lots were absurdly small. Often their value only amounted to 10s. The charges were enormous, and the same goods were seen in one, two, five—in twenty succeeding sales. The smallness of the lots was due to the brokers' inordinate greed for lot-money (a charge of 1s 6d. for each lot in the catalogue to cover printing-expenses, &c.). The brokers did not value the goods properly. They were guided, not by their own sense, but by their neighbours' valuations. The business was eaten up by the charges. Let the goods be put up in larger lots, and they might be sold with half the trouble and work that the catalogues now entailed. In last week's sales benzoin was offered in lots of two boxes weighing forty pounds, Barbados aloes in lots of 1 cwt. to 1½ cwt. The last-named was put in at 20s. and sold at 40s.

per cwt.; and so on. All the Barbados aloes together only amounted to 5 cwt.; and ought to have been lumped into one lot. The exporters were unanimously in favour of monthly sales, and they were the principal buyers. He proposed to take the opinion of the room on the matter, and moved a resolution to that effect.

Mr. Edmund Bluhm (A. Faber & Co.) seconded. He did not think it necessary to say much, because everyone had heard all there was to be said about the matter for the last two or three weeks. They had all made up their minds and could vote without further delay.

Mr. Richard Barron spoke as President of the Drug Club, and, therefore, as representing the wholesale druggists of London and some of their country colleagues. The question, he said, had been discussed at the Drug Club meeting in December last, when by a majority, and not as Mr. Ziegele had said, by a "casting-vote"—(Mr. E. Bluhm: "What was the majority?")—a motion was carried that the drug-trade desired the auctions to continue fortnightly. The members of the Drug Club, including the three or four who had signed the petition, would now abstain from voting.

Mr. Andrew Devitt, on behalf of the brokers, spoke against a departure from the fortnightly-auction system. Monthly sales, he thought, would have the effect of deviating trade to Hamburg and other continental ports. It was true, however, that much time was now wasted at the sales by goods being offered which were never meant to be sold. Perhaps some limitation of the number of times of which the same goods might be offered at the sales would be advisable. At any rate, as representing a number of importers not present at this meeting, he protested against any decision being arrived at there and then.

Mr. R. N. Dalton, also a broker, entirely agreed with Mr. Devitt. As regards Mr. Ziegele's complaint about the smallness of the lots offered, that had nothing to do with the interval between the sales, and was a question which could easily be settled by itself by a small committee appointed for the purpose. If monthly sales were made the rule and a parcel of goods arrived a couple of days before the auction, too late for inclusion in it, that parcel would have to wait for a whole month before it could be offered again, which would be very detrimental to trade.

The chief interests represented having thus had their say, the next quarter of an hour was occupied with fresh speeches by most of those who had already spoken once, the Chairman doing nothing to divert the flow of eloquence into fresh channels. Mr. Ziegele drew forth a bundle of catalogues of drugs offered in Amsterdam, which, he explained, was practically the only foreign port where public sales were held. Goods were there offered, not in paltry lots as in London, but by thirty, forty, or fifty packages at a time. Why should they sell senna-leaves by single bales here? It would surely be much more reasonable to put an entire mark or consignment together in one lot. If the brokers would sell privately, as they did in Hamburg, better prices would be obtained, especially nowadays, when all the wholesale quotations were published in the trade-paper. But the chief concern of the brokers seemed to be to lengthen the catalogues, because that brought in so much more lot-money.

The difference between carrying a motion by a majority of one or by a casting-vote was then explained by Mr. Barron, and an importer protested that a deviation from the time-honoured fortnightly-auction system would lead people, especially foreigners, to think that our trade was diminishing, which was not really the case. Mr. Hector Gray, as a broker, declared that all his importers were against the suggested change. A representative of Messrs. Clark & Smith, importers of drugs, agreed that the change would tend to drive business to alien ports. Small lots might be objectionable; but he himself had often been asked to divide his consignments up into small lots by the very men who were now asking for big lots.

Mr. Ashmore said that he represented the firm of Dodge & Olcott, of New York, and that he considered the drug-sales, as they were now, a perfect farce. His firm received several thousand pounds' worth of musk in consignment every year, but hardly any of that was sold by auction. They bought a little ipecacuanha now and then—perhaps 200 bales a year—but only one-tenth of it was purchased in public sale. It was an absurdity to offer lots such as "7 lbs. of cardamom-seed" at the London drug-auctions, and he



suggested that brokers who did so should carry a pair of scales with them to weigh out the hargain there and then.

The Chairman then asked those in favour of monthly sales to hold up their hands, and counted the response in silence. But before he got any further a general discussion ensued on the point whether brokers ought to be allowed to vote. "If they are," said Mr. Barron, "I claim at least twenty votes for absent members of the Drug Club." Mr. Charles Umney suggested that if the brokers' opinion coincided with that of the members of the Drug Club, the monthly-sale motion would fall to the ground. If not, then it would be open for further discussion, and a committee of druggists, importers, and exporters might be appointed to go into the question. Mr. Andrew Devitt urged the right of brokers to vote, and matters were rapidly drifting to a deadlock when the Chairman announced his opinion that brokers could vote. Mr. Bluhm pointed out that brokers were understood to be neutral agents, priding themselves upon standing midway between importers and buyers, and that therefore they could not logically take part in the voting. Mr. Umney suggested that the brokers' votes be registered separately, and this was agreed to. The vote resulted as follows:—

Druggists (home and export) and importers in favour of monthly auctions .. .. .	21
Ditto, against .. .. .	18
Brokers in favour of monthly auctions .. .. .	0
Ditto, against .. .. .	17

The Chairman did not state whether the eighteen and seventeen votes would be taken together, or whether the twenty-one had carried it over the eighteen, and a desultory discussion recommenced. Mr. Marshall (Marshall & French), standing below the rostrum, gave an anecdotal account of his thirty-one years' experience in Mincing Lane, and pointed out that the meeting had developed into a gathering to protest against small lots being offered—a practice which put men of large capital on the same footing with those who did not own a brass farthing. Mr. Price, another broker, proposed another committee (when not knowing what to do: appoint a committee, makes an excellent axiom for a "Chairman's *vade mecum*")—4 importers, 4 exporters, 4 wholesale druggists, and 4 brokers—to discuss the smallness of the lots. Someone else suggested that this was too much, and proposed that two of each should enter the Ark of Committee before it was launched on the Flood of Discussion. "No, three," said a third. "Then let the question be whether the minimum lots shall be of a value of 25%," added a fourth. "And whether the sales shall be monthly or fortnightly," urged a fifth. And so it went on, until a gentleman rose from the Cimmerian gloom of the back benches and, in a still, small voice, began: "I am only a very small importer." . . . The audience turned round to listen, and the speaker went on to point out that the meeting had been generally made known; that all concerned had been whipped up; that it was avowedly a gathering of "all interested in the trade"; that the brokers were so interested, that therefore their votes ought to be counted with the minority, converting it into a majority, thereby disposing of the question of monthly sales, and that, consequently, the point for which the meeting was called being settled, there was nothing left to discuss. These unassailable propositions were received with relieved cheers, and the meeting broke up at once. In the bustle of departure a voice was heard to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Although this was not formally seconded, it would no doubt have been carried had not the meeting been out of doors by this time. Thns, for the present, has ended the "monthly drug-sale question"—with the well-known result of the Battle of Blenheim:—

"But what good came of it at last?"

Quoth little Peterkin,

"Why, that I cannot tell," said he;

"But 'twas a famous victory!"

IT IS A CURIOUS FACT in regard to the detection of potash that if it is a solution of potassium acetate we add the tartaric acid to in small proportion, there is no immediate precipitate, but by adding also some acetic acid the precipitate is immediate.

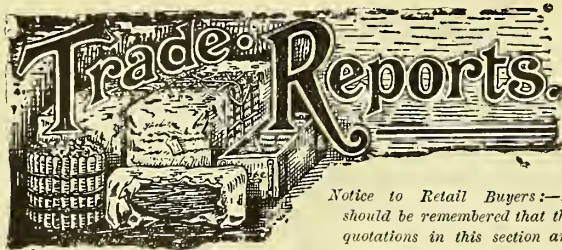
## London Drug Statistics.

THE following statistics relate to the movement of some of the leading drugs in the London public warehouses in the course of the last two years. The statistics are supplied by the warehouses in question, and their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. It should also be noted that certain warehouses refuse to supply returns, and that the statistics cannot, therefore, be regarded as altogether complete:—

Article	Stocks		Imported		Delivered	
	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894
Aloes.....cs, &c.	4,991	4,628	2,473	2,010	2,486	3,608
.....gourds	2,699	3,223	139	813	663	846
Anise, Star.....cs	284	457	41	—	233	156
Arrowroot.....brs	13,649	10,027	21,067	17,274	17,438	14,736
.....bxs & tins	2,059	2,356	2,465	4,054	2,772	2,621
Balsams.....cs, &c.	1,364	1,175	1,833	724	1,625	1,445
Borax.....pkgs	41	—	51	376	10	381
Calumba.....bgs.	1,222	997	1,233	1,169	1,053	1,915
Campbor.....pkgs.	16,273	4,300	19,711	11,181	7,740	11,663
Cardamoms.....cs, &c.	978	966	3,263	3,162	3,017	2,642
Cinchona-bark:—						
S. American.....cs	58	64	14	30	20	18
".....bbs, &c.	17,249	20,021	5,384	10,431	7,923	12,723
E.I. Ceylon, (cs	270	184	232	207	153	127
".....bbs	9,873	11,797	12,259	18,505	14,533	21,251
Cocculus Ind. ....bgs.	52	154	165	125	267	489
Cream of tartar cks	5	—	22	69	17	95
Cubebs.....bgs	396	386	520	603	510	587
Cutch.....tins	1,715	2,782	1,305	2,835	2,373	2,181
Dragon's Blood.....cs	179	187	298	362	306	272
Galls, China & Jap.,	507	493	1,469	2,504	1,454	2,449
Turkish & Persn bgs	4,957	—	5,359	—	7,677	—
Gambier.....tins	739	459	6,207	11,075	5,939	11,408
Gums:—						
Ammoniacum pgs	77	75	173	158	191	176
Animi & Copal ..	8,474	9,656	22,534	19,806	23,982	19,943
Acacia ..	10,924	10,322	22,266	16,659	21,788	20,503
Asafoetida ..	763	173	1,853	910	1,263	1,004
Benzoin ..	1,508	1,726	3,344	1,903	3,562	3,225
Damar.....	2,093	2,995	8,710	6,761	9,649	7,277
Galbanum ..	2	11	—	1	9	5
Gamboge ..	159	208	250	423	299	415
Guaiacum ..	57	126	106	128	165	194
Kino ..	14	17	21	18	22	8
Kowrie.....tins	1,443	2,170	2,852	3,550	3,526	3,200
Mastic.....pkgs	20	21	10	23	11	39
Myrrh ..	555	422	559	711	534	482
Olibanum ..	2,055	3,015	5,989	9,216	6,854	8,186
Sandarach ..	262	753	830	1,082	1,237	1,197
Tragacanth ..	1,979	2,652	6,407	6,278	8,175	5,460
Gutta Percha ..tins	2,082	1,923	1,494	1,726	1,341	2,062
Indianrubber:—						
Assam, &c. ....tins	193	180	816	787	805	726
Madag. ....	48	81	301	507	334	492
S. American ..	86	74	258	288	237	275
African, &c. ....	135	148	344	384	364	406
Ipecacuanha.....pkgs.	6:8	863	922	1,446	1,157	1,387
Jalap.....bbs	252	189	3:6	341	313	303
Lac Dye.....chts	2,794	2,912	—	—	118	1,488
Nux Vomica.....pkgs	1,076	872	2,503	3,451	2,305	2,955
Oils:—						
Castor.....cks	87	85	696	533	654	626
.....cs	1,095	1,587	1,864	3,060	2,469	2,930
Cocoa-nut.....tins	742	766	3,524	3,080	3,327	3,020
Olive.....cks, &c.	435	1,095	1,573	3,317	2,222	2,695
Palm.....tins	9	7	77	65	70	60
Rhubarb.....chts	923	1,156	1,579	1,736	1,829	1,483
Safflower, Bengl. bbs, &c.	79	147	17	168	85	130
Sarsaparilla.....bbs	266	344	1,147	1,078	1,223	1,146
Senna.....bbs, &c.	2,598	2,373	6,094	3,229	5,854	4,780
Shellac.....						
Orange.....cs	13,688	12,906	28,714	32,951	27,932	39,482
Garnet.....	5,883	1,794	13,727	7,357	9,638	9,626
Button.....	6,128	3,991	12,921	10,685	10,784	9,783
Total .....	25,699	18,691	55,362	50,993	48,354	58,891
Sticklac.....cs	472	593	3,494	2,9:1	3,397	3,269
Turmeric, Bengl. tins	753	161	786	130	398	159
Other kinds ..	633	709	877	1,128	701	640
Total .....	1,336	870	1,603	1,258	1,099	799
Vermilion.....chts, &c.	16	16	13	16	13	46
Wax (bees') bbs & cs	1,231	376	4,129	4,063	3,304	4,474
".....cks & cs	1,035	679	4,347	3,309	4,002	3,690
" (Japan) cs, &c.	477	1,247	474	1,685	1,244	1,215

"THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1896 is monumental affair."—*The Spatula*.





Notice to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large

quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable even for manufacturing purposes. Further points which should be borne in mind are that distributor generally has to bear the bulk of the freight-charges on the goods on their way from the producer to the retailer, and that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.

42 CANNON STREET, E C., January 16.

THERE have been very few changes of interest in the position of drugs, chemicals and drysalteries since our last report. Trade is generally quiet, although it can scarcely be called dull. In fine chemicals we have to report a somewhat improved business in quinine, although prices are barely altered. Tartaric acid has been advanced and looks like going up still further. Cream of tartar continues to rise. Citric acid is unaltered. Refined camphor shows no alteration. Glycerine is only barely steady, while sugar-of-milk is still tending higher. Phenacetin is quoted dearer in some quarters, but we believe that it would still be possible to buy at last week's prices. In drugs we have to report a slow market for camphor. Gentian-root is still tending upwards; fine colocynth very firmly held. In Carthagenia ipecacuanha business has been done at somewhat better prices. Menthol fairly steady, but slow of sale. Opium very firmly held for all kinds; some grades have been sold at very full prices. Cod-liver oil steady. Italian oils are said to show a firmer tendency. Oil of citronella is also rather dearer, and for cinnamon-leaf oil higher prices have been paid. The other essential oils, however, remain unchanged. Rhubarb is fairly steady, with a better tendency for Shensi. Tinnevely senna firm. Scammony-root and resin firmly held. In drysalteries the chief feature of interest has been the reversal in the position of shellac, which has been moving upwards from day to day, and has to a large extent recovered the ground it lost in the preceding week. Turmeric remains dull of sale. Japanese wax is much dearer, and in blue Persian galls a considerable business has been done at firm rates. At to-day's varnish-gum auctions Kowrie gum met with a fair inquiry, but, being very firmly held, only a small portion sold. This brought full prices. Damar gums sold at irregular rates, and olibanum was very slow of sale. Manila copal gum in large supply. Bold chips sold at from 1s. to 2s. per cwt. advance. The demand for Zanzibar animi gum was keen, and prices rose from 5s. to 10s. per cwt. Quicksilver firmly held. There is but little alteration in heavy chemicals. Arsenic is exceedingly firm, caustic soda higher. Chlorate of potash is also firmer. Sodas and potashes generally firm. Sulphate of ammonia flat, miscible naphtha lower. Bleaching-powder steady. Benzole and toluol firmly held. Carbolic acid steady in all varieties. In spices a slight upward movement is apparent in white and black pepper. Pimento and Zanzibar cloves are also somewhat firmer, and Jamaica ginger is dearer. Cochin ginger, however, has sold at very low rates.

Linseed oil is one or two points lower; rape oil firm, both for crude and refined. Cotton-seed very steady—refined tending higher. Coconut oil steady. Fine Lagos palm oil 6d. higher, the present quotation being 22s. 6d. Spanish olive oil higher. Turpentine dearer, at 21s. 1½d. for American on the spot. Petroleum easier, American 6½d. to 8½d. per gallon, according to brand, Russian 6½d. The Bank Rate remains at 2 per cent., Bar silver slightly higher at 30½d. per oz.

Our Smyrna correspondent wires on Thursday morning that, during the week ending on Wednesday, 50 cases of fair current manufacturing opium have been sold at the parity of 7s. 7d. per lb., f.o.b. Smyrna. The market closes with a steady tone.

Our Amsterdam correspondent, telegraphing on Thursday afternoon, states that at to-day's public sales of Java cinchona-bark 5,149 packages, representing five-sixths of the supply offered, sold at an average unit of 3c. per half-kilo., which is equal to the price paid at the last sales. The principal buyers were: G. Briegleb, of Amsterdam, representing the American and English manufacturers, who bought an equivalent of 5,925 kilos. of sulphate of quinine; the Auerbach Factory, 4,111 kilos.; the Brunswick Factory, 4,616 kilos.; the Amsterdam and Mannheim works, 6,818 kilos.; the Frankfurt-on-Maine and Stuttgart works, 2,066 kilos.; and general buyers, 3,906 kilos. The prices paid ranged from 7¼c. to 40c. (equal to 1½d. to 7½d.) for *Druggists' barks*, and from 9¼c. to 70¼c. (equal to 1½d. to 1s. 0¾d.) per lb. for manufacturing barks. The tone throughout the auctions was firm. The total supply consisted of 6,133 bales and 268 cases of Java cinchona-bark, weighing 595,219 kilos., are to be offered. The bark contained the large quantity of 32,478 kilos. of *Sulphate of quinine*, being an average of 5.53 per cent. for the manufacturing bark.

We have received from our New York correspondent the following cablegram, dated December 26:—Fair *Copaiba* balsam is offering at 32c. per lb., and Oregon variety of *Canada balsam* at 60c. For genuine *Balsam of Peru* \$2.30 per lb. is asked. *Tolu* balsam is firmer at 55c. per lb. for genuine quality. *Cascarilla* offers at 3½c. per lb. *Morphia* in bulk is quoted at \$2.10 per oz. The current quotation for *German quinine* in bulk is 28c.; P. & W. brand (domestic) 30c. per oz. The orders have fallen off considerably within the last few days. *Peppermint oil* is very firm, with a fair inquiry, Western being quoted at \$1.75 per lb., Wayne County oil at \$1.90 per lb. The price of *Spearmint* oil is \$2.15 per lb. *Turpentine* has advanced to 29c.

We understand that the Council of the London Produce Brokers' Association will discuss at their next meeting the advisability of laying down certain minimum limits, either as regards value or weight, for goods offered at the drug-auctions. It will also be proposed to exclude vanilla from the drug-sales altogether, so as to lighten the auctions. This proposal is the outcome of the suggestions thrown out at Monday's meeting; which we report elsewhere.

Although antipyrin is chiefly made in Germany, the sale-price of the drug is higher in that country than anywhere else. The German trade-mark law and a high protective tariff enable the Höchst manufacturers to keep up their quotations in their own country, whereas abroad they are compelled by competition to meet the market. Thus the German works have just

Price of  
Antipyrin.



reduced their price to consumers in Austria by about 9s. per lb. This has been done because the Swiss and German manufacturers quote about 32s. 6d. per lb. to consumers in the Austro-Hungarian empire.

**ACID (CARBOLIC).**—Steady. *Crystals*, 39-40° C., 6½d.; 34-35° C., 6½d. per lb.; *crude*, 60 per cent., 1s. 9d.; 75 per cent, 1s. 11d. to 2s. per gallon.

**ACID (CITRIC).**—Steady. The English manufacturers' price is 1s. 2½d. per lb.; in second-hand 1s. 2d. per lb. Concentrated *Lemon juice* offers at 13l 15s. per pipe, f.o.b. The shipments of lemon and bergamot juice from Sicily in December were 460 pipes, against 246 pipes in December 1894.

**ACID (TARTARIC)** has been advanced by the English manufacturers, whose price on the spot is now 1s. 3d. per lb. Only one of them quotes for forward delivery, and his price in that position is 1s. 3½d. Foreign tartaric acid, not guaranteed B.P., is offering at 1s. 2½d. on the spot, or 1s. 3d. forward.

**ADEPS LANÆ.**—The firm of Benno Jaffé & Darmstädter (the proprietors of Lanoline) are now offering, through their English agents, odourless adeps lanæ, answering to the B.P. tests, at much reduced prices.

**ALOES.**—*East Indian* firmly held for good quality.

**AMERICAN DRUGS.**—*Balsam Canada* offers at 1s. 4d. per lb., *Wild-cherry bark* at 4d. per lb., *Slippery-elm bark* at 5d. per lb., and *Wahoo bark* from root at 10½d. per lb. *Euonymin* is quoted at 26s. per lb. for either brown or green, *Damiana-leaves* of good quality at 6d. per lb., *Podophyllin* at 7s. 6d. per lb., *Senega root* at 1s. 3d., and *Snake-root* at 1s. 2d. per lb.

**ARSENIC** is exceedingly scarce. For good white powder 16l 10s. per ton to 17l appears to be the bottom price, London terms, but the quotation is more or less nominal, as supplies are extremely difficult to find.

**BISMUTH.**—The price of the metal remains at 3s. per lb., and all the bismuth salts are also unaltered; but there was some little talk on 'Change to-day of the probability of an early advance. Needless to say, it is impossible to state anything definite on this subject beforehand.

**CAMPHOR (CRUDE).**—The market is very quiet. The camphor syndicate show no disposition to operate at present. No business is reported. Importers' quotations are for Japan, January-March shipment, 185s. to 187s. 6d., c.i.f. terms. It is reported that bids have been made and refused at 182s. 6d., c.i.f., but we have not been able to confirm this. In second hand the quotation for Japan is 175s., c.i.f. In *Formosa* camphor there are sellers for January-March shipment at 170s., or perhaps 167s. 6d., per cwt., but no business taken place.

**CANTHARIDES.**—New *Russian* flies offer at 2s. 3d. per lb., London terms.

**CHLORATE OF POTASH.**—Slightly firmer; the London spot price is now 4½d. per lb., and the Liverpool quotation 4½d. per lb, f.o.b.

**COLOCYNTH.**—Fine *Syrian* apples remain very scarce and are held for 3s. per lb. Some business has recently been done in fine *Spanish* at 1s. 4d. per lb.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—Still advancing. On the spot, best white crystals are quoted at 99s.; powder, at 101s. to 102s. per cwt. Hardly anything appears to be available in Bordeaux for prompt shipment. It is said that bids have been made at 95s. per cwt. f.o.b., and declined.

**GALLS.**—A large business was done in Persian galls up to a few days ago, some 850 bags having sold at higher prices, up to 55s. per cwt. for fair blue *Bassorah*. There are still, however, sellers on the spot at that figure, but it is said that in the producing country the prices are so high that this quality cannot now be laid down here below 57s. 6d. per cwt. *Japanese* galls are rather easier: fair quality offering at 55s. per cwt. on the spot, or at 52s. c.i.f. terms from second-hand holders.

**GENTIAN-ROOT.**—Again dearer; 22s. per cwt. is quoted for good French on the spot, but perhaps some might yet be had at 21s. per cwt.

**GINGER.**—The market for *Cochin* is dull, and prices are rather easier. Only small supplies were offered at auction, and 59 bags small washed rough sold without reserve at 33s. per cwt. Medium to bold brownish cut was bought in at 62s. 6d. to 70s. per cwt. *Jamacia* ginger, however, is exceedingly scarce and sold at a fresh advance, 20 bales ordinary lean dull realising the high price of 80s. per cwt.

**GLYCERINE.**—The manufacturers' quotations remain entirely unchanged since our last report—viz., from 70s. per cwt. for best double-distilled s.g. 1.260 upwards. Second-hand holders, however, offer somewhat below these quotations, and are perhaps a shade easier, as the price of crude glycerine on the Continent has lately declined slightly.

**IODINE.**—Unaltered. The syndicate make no quotation at present. Business is very slight.

**IPECACUANHA.**—Since the last auctions several parcels of *Carthagena* (Colombian) root have been sold privately at an advance of from 2d. to 3d. per lb. on the drug sale rates, 4s 2d. being now the lowest quotation for fair quality. For *Rio* (Brazilian) root there has been some inquiry.

**MENTHOL.**—Very quiet. On the spot the nominal price is 13s. 9d. per lb., but for shipment slightly better rates are asked. Recently the quotation was below 13s.; now it is up to 13s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f.

**OIL (CASTOR).**—Firmer and scarce. First Calcutta quoted 2½d. per lb.; seconds, 2½d. per lb. on the spot. *Italian* is still advancing in price, from 30s. to 30s. 6d. per cwt. being now the quotation.

**OIL (COD LIVER).**—The first arrivals of oil from the December fisheries have come to the market at Bergen. The quality is said to be very good, and, although up to the present the market price has not been fixed, it is thought that this oil will not be obtainable under 180s., c.i.f. terms. Sales have been made of good non-congealing *Norwegian* cod-liver oil of last season at 170s. per barrel on the spot. It is also reported that new oil (December fishing) has been sold at 185s., c.i.f. The reports of the fishing are not so favourable as at first. *Newfoundland* oil of best quality is quoted at 5s. 6d. per gallon.

**OILS (ESSENTIAL).**—*American oil of peppermint*, HGH, is still offering at from 10s. to 10s. 1½d. per lb. on the spot. *Spearmint oil*, HGH, is quoted at 10s. 6d. per lb.; *wintergreen oil* at 7s. per lb. *Australian sandalwood oil* offers at 11s. 6d. per lb. *Oil of cinnamon-leaf* is again somewhat dearer, 5½d. has been paid on the spot, and there is no more to be had at that price. *Lemongrass oil* unaltered. Native oils on the spot 2½d. per oz; for arrival 2½d. *Citronella oil* again slightly dearer, with sales of fair quality; usual conditions, on the spot, at 2s. per lb., but it is doubtful whether any more can be had at that figure, 2s. 2d. being the general quotation. *Oil of cassia* unchanged, so far as the London market is concerned. For arrival, however, higher prices are asked—viz., 9s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f., for oil containing 70 per cent. of cinnamic aldehyde. *Star anise oil*, 10s. 3d. on the spot, and very scarce for shipment, 10s. 10d., c.i.f., being quoted for prompt. *Japanese oil of peppermint* unaltered. *Dementholised*, 6s. 3d. to 6s. 6d.; 40-per-cent. oil, about 7s. 9d. per lb. on the spot.

**OPIMUM.**—There has been a steady amount of business in ordinary seconds *Druggists'* at slightly easier rates—viz., 7s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. per lb. For *Soft shipping* opium, however, the quotation ranges somewhat higher, as there is very little offering. High-class opium, especially, is very firmly held, and sales have been made at 12s. 6d. for fine *Malatia*, and 12s. for fine *Tokat*. In *Persian*, of which the stocks are small, fine bricks are quoted at the steady rate of 13s. 6d. per lb.

**ORRIS.**—The market is tending slightly firmer. Sales of good selected *Verona-root* have been made on the spot at 67s. 6d. per cwt., and there seems to be little available at that figure now. For picked *Florentine-root*, the quotation remains 80s. per cwt.

**QUICKSILVER.**—Quiet at 7l. 7s. 6d. per bottle from the importers, and at 7l. 6s. from second-hand holders.

**QUININE.**—A fair business has been done this week in small lots, aggregating about 15,000 oz. of second-hand *German* bulk at 13½d. per oz. The price asked is now 13½d. for B & S, and 13½d. for the other *German* brands.



**RHUBARB.**—A steady market, the *Shensi* variety especially tending somewhat higher. At the last auctions high prices were paid, and importers say that in the *Shensi* province of China the markets are quite bare.

**SAFFRON.**—Unchanged. The market is very steady.

**SCAMMONY.**—The present quotation for best virgin *Turkish* resin is 32s. per lb. *Foreign* resin from dried root may be had at 8s. 9d. per lb., but the Scotch makers ask 9s. per lb., and an English maker has just advanced his price to 9s. 6d. per lb.

**SHELLAC.**—The market has recovered to some extent from the depression existing at the end of last week. Higher prices are asked all round, and a fair inquiry prevails. During the present week further business has been done in *TN Orange* at 95s., cash terms. For *AC Garnet* 90s. per cwt. is required. For arrival, several hundred cases of *TN* have sold at prices advancing from 83s. 6d. to 85s. per cwt. for February to May steamer shipment. One hundred cases *AC Garnet* have also been sold at 85s., c.i.f., for February-April steamer shipment. At auction on Tuesday only 504 cases were offered, consisting almost entirely of *Second orange*. The demand was steady, and 420 cases sold at an irregular advance of from 4s. up to 10s. for *Second orange*. Pale lemon-coloured, rather out of condition, realised 102s. to 104s.; fair to good bright free *TN*, 94s. to 97s.; flat livery and reddish, from 87s. to 91s.; ordinary curly reddish, 86s.; dark and cakey livery, 83s. to 86s.; common and black, 80s. to 83s.

**SOY** remains very quiet at 1s. per gallon for good *Chinese*.

**SPERMACETI** has been in rather more demand lately. Good *American* refined is now quoted at 1s. 9d. per lb.

**SUGAR OF MILK.**—Firm at from 77s. 6d. to 85s. per cwt. for white powder, according to brand and holder. Best white crystals have been sold at 87s. 6d. per cwt.

**TURPENTINE.**—*Venice*, 70s. per cwt. *Chian*, 10s. per lb.

**WAX (JAPAN).**—Has further advanced in price in consequence of the convention entered into between the chief exporters in Japan, to which we referred several weeks ago. All the cheap lots offering have been cleared here, chiefly for export to the United States, and several hundred cases have been sold on the spot at prices ranging up to 34s. and 34s. 6d. per cwt. Holders however now require 35s. per cwt., and this is checking business for the moment. For shipment the quotations range from 35s. to 40s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms.

**WAX (PARAFFIN).**—*Crude* is quoted at 1½d. to 2¼d., *Refined* at from 2¼d. to 3¾d. per lb.

### Heavy Chemicals.

(Where no prices are quoted the figures given in our table of January 4 still hold good)

The condition of the heavy-chemical market generally is steady. All round a fairly brisk demand is being met with. This is especially noticeable when the time of the year is taken into consideration. A number of buyers who have hung back up to the very last moment have now placed their contracts, and several, as a result of their tardiness, have only been able to do so at rather higher figures. *Salt-cake* continues very firm, and the demand is good, owing to the continued activity in the glass-factories; but as the slack season is just about to commence in these works an easier feeling will no doubt shortly prevail. In most products there is little or no alteration in the range of prices to report. *Caustic soda*, consequent on the heavy demand for export, stands higher, and quotations for f.o.b. Liverpool for the different strengths are now nominally as follows:—77 per cent, 9l. 7s. 6d.; 74 per cent., 8l. 10s.; 70 per cent., 7l. 10s. to 7l. 15s.; and 60 per cent., 6l. 10s. to 6l. 15s.—all per ton net in 10-ton lots. *Oxalic acid* is firm, but unchanged in price. *Alum* of the highest qualities, especially for Turkey-red dyeing, &c., is selling more freely. The exports of *Sulphate of ammonia* from Leith were rather heavier last week, amounting in all to 891 tons. In position it is again somewhat weaker, quotations standing: f.o.b. Leith, 8l. 10s.; Hull, 8l. 11s. 3d.; London, 8l. 12s. 6d.; Beckton, 8l. 12s. 6d. For February and March, 8l. 12s. 6d., and March-April, 8l. 15s. to 8l. 17s. 6d. Only very little is being done in forward business. *Aniline oil* and *Salt*

maintain their firm position and have an upward tendency. *Arsenic* is still somewhat scarce. The improvement noted last week in *Barium compounds* still continues. Stocks are low, and the *Chloride* especially seems difficult to obtain for prompt. *Benzols* very steady, 50's are now quoted at 2s. 0½d. per gallon; 90's unchanged. For *Bleaching-powder* the demand is active, and there appears to be little prospect of an early abatement in it. *Cotton* and *Linseed-cakes* have advanced 2s. 6d. per ton. *Sulphate of copper* is easier, best brands 15l. 15s. to 15l. 17s. 6d. per ton free on board Liverpool.

### The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on January 15, reports that in *Soudan sorts of Acacia gum* the inquiry has been chiefly for cheap qualities, of which small sales have been made at 48s. per cwt.; other kinds are held for prices ranging up to 60s. per cwt. *Niger* and *Brazilian* gums have met with no buyers during the week, but some recent arrivals of the latter will shortly be offered. *Spermaceti*: The stock of *Chilian* is accumulating, and holders talk of 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per lb., though possibly less might be taken. *Tartaric acid* and *Cream of tartar* are very firm, and there are rumours that the agents for foreign makers are very busy buying crude material. *Castor oil* is very firm indeed, at 2½d. for good seconds *Calcutta*, 2½d. per lb. first-pressure *French*, and 2½d. for second-pressure *French*. *Beeswax* has been in good demand, and values of *Chilian* range from 7l. 10s. to 8l. 12s. 6d. per cwt.; some *African (Gambia)* has fetched 6l. 12s. 6d. at auction. *Kola nuts* are quiet, at prices ranging from 6d. to 7d. for W.C. African grades. *Turmeric* is in good supply at late rates. *Honey* is meeting with a steady demand at 27s. 6d. to 42s. 6d. for *Californian*, and 21s. 6d. to 36s. per cwt. for *Chilian*, as in quality. *Calabar-beans* remain steady at 1½d. to 2d. per lb. for sound quality. *African ginger* is selling slowly at 26s. 6d. to 27s. per cwt. *Canaryseed* is unchanged at figures last advised. *Cochineal*: Some business has been passing in black, but the prices did not transpire. Sixteen barrels of Newfoundland *Cod-liver oil* have just been landed.

### The Smyrna and Constantinople Opium-markets.

Our mail reports from the Smyrna opium market are dated December 31, 1895. They state that the total sales for the month amount to 600 cases, the greater part of which is for the United States. Hitherto the weather has been favourable for the sowings, and if it continues so until the end we shall have a large crop next season. In that case prices will drop. But it is premature to count upon a large crop, and if the present brisk demand continues, then it is very likely the value of the drug will be further advanced in January. The arrivals of new opium from the beginning of the season to the end of the year amount to 3,192 cases, against 2,061 at the same period last year. The Smyrna stock of old and new opium is about 2,673 cases. The quotations were as follows:—Old manufacturing opium, 7s. 11d. per lb., f.o.b.; new selected talequale for manufacturing, 7s. 11d. to 8s. per lb., f.o.b.; Yerli and Bogaditz talequale, 8s. to 8s. 2d. per lb., f.o.b.; current talequale, 7s. 10d. per lb., f.o.b. Another Smyrna correspondent, writing on December 28, states that during the week two large buyers appeared upon the market and bought between them 223 cases *Talequale* opium at 72 piastres, and 3 cases *Yerli* at 74 piastres, all for shipment to America and the Continent. The accounts of the weather prevailing in the cultivating districts are extremely favourable. Rain is at present falling incessantly, and the temperature is unusually high. Writing from Constantinople on January 3, our correspondent says:—"Druggists' opium is steady at about 7s. 4d. to 7s. 2d. f.o.b., with no present signs of giving way. At about 2d. less there would be more speculative buying for American account. Soft grades are firmly held at 10s. 6d. for best qualities (all firsts). These are no buyers either for these or druggist grades. Owing to the state of anarchy existing inland neither opium, gum, yellow berries, nor, in fact, any merchandise is coming down, except from the parts accessible by the railways. Sowings are good, and weather all that could be desired. The monetary condition of the country is going from bad to worse, and it is expected that, at its expiration, the moratorium will be extended from 2 to 4 months.





### Memoranda for Correspondents.

In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.

Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.

The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.

### Concerning a Proprietary Formula.

We published in our issue of January 4 a formula alleged to be that of the "Brompton Hospital cough-specific." This piece of information was supplied to us, apparently, by a Mr. "Wm. Banbury, of Nottingham." Messrs. George Hardy & Co., of 10 Fulham Road, Brompton, London, S.W., the proprietors of the "Brompton consumption and cough specific," have brought to our knowledge circumstances which justify us in believing that Mr. Banbury's letter was written with the object of injuring Messrs. Hardy's business, as Messrs. Hardy & Co. state that the formula published does not at all correspond with theirs, and that the said Mr. Banbury has never even seen the original recipe of the late Charles Hardy. We, for our part, regret that we should have inadvertently allowed our journal to have been made use of in this manner.

Since writing the above, we have received the following letter for publication:—

SIR,—With reference to an alleged formula for our "Brompton cough-specific" published by you on January 4, said to have been "copied from the original recipe of the late Charles Hardy," we beg to inform you that the whole statement of "Mr. Banbury, of Nottingham," your informer, is an untruth. The formula which you publish is not the same as ours, and was never copied from the original recipe, which Mr. Banbury has never seen. And "the late (?) Charles Hardy" is now alive and well, the senior partner in our present firm. Wm. Banbury was asked to quit our employ after a short trial, and he afterwards brought a bogus claim against us for the sum of 32*l.* 10*s.* in lieu of notice, which his solicitor offered to settle for 10*l.*; but, on our indignant refusal, the case was set down for hearing in the Birmingham County Court, and was decided in our favour, and when judgment was issued Wm. Banbury had disappeared.

Faithfully yours,

10 Fulham Road, Brompton, GEO. HARDY & CO.  
London, S.W., January 14.

### Anti-cutting Schemes.

SIR,—The assertion by "Country Buyer" that the improvement in our terms is more apparent than real is based on an insufficient knowledge. Our improved terms show a profit of over 30 per cent. on goods sold at advertised retail prices, and of over 20 per cent. at the minimum retail prices. We ascertained the average cost of carriage on our sales during a recent month to be 2½ per cent. of the net price of the goods.

We have done our best to meet the legitimate demand of the retail trade for an increased rate of profit on proprietary goods, and we are sure that our endeavour will be appreciated—in fact, we have already satisfactory evidence that such is the case.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

FRAME FOOD COMPANY (LIMITED),

J. W. LEE, Manager.

Lombard Road, Battersea, S.W.,  
January 13.

D. & W. Gibbs (Limited).

SIR,—We notice in the issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, dated January 11, a paragraph stating that our business has been converted into a limited liability company. This is correct; but it omits to state the most important factor in the case—viz., that no shares are offered to the public, the entire share capital being taken up by the present partners.

As this is a point which, unless fully explained, might mislead our clients who read your paper, we trust you will kindly state it clearly in your next issue.

We may also add that as the necessary formalities are not yet completed, we have deferred advising our many friends and customers.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

January 10.

D. & W. GIBBS.

But for the *C. & D.* we might have been Victims.

SIR,—A tall stranger, probably the same as described by your correspondent Herbert H. Presbury, called at our establishment with a handbill advertising "voice-machine," and ordered two machines. We were at dinner at the time, but being informed of the affair I immediately supposed the man to be the one spoken of in the *C. & D.*, and posted after him in hot haste. On my journey I found a fellow pill on the same errand. We found the noted professor, and told him what we thought of him, and told him to clear out of the town at once. We were not quite so green at Brighton as he imagined. We have done our best to warn our fellow Chips in the town against this man. Had it not been for the letters in the *C. & D.* we might have now been regretting the loss of 2*l.* 10*s.*

Yours faithfully,

W. R. WHEELER, proprietor Barton Brothers.

77 King's Road, Brighton,

January 10.

Mr. Thomas Holloway, 78 New Oxford Street, writes to thank us for mentioning the matter, and adds: "I do not know anything of the person named in the circular, which has nothing to do in any way with my business."

### White-wine Vinegar.

SIR,—Although there has been but little comment made by members of the drug-trade upon the recent white-wine vinegar prosecution, there seems to exist in various quarters a considerable amount of misunderstanding, if not ignorance, upon the subject.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal*, in reply to a statement made by Mr. Jesse Boot that "without question the sale of diluted acetic acid as white-wine vinegar has been common in the trade, and a well-understood thing between buyer and seller," said: "So far as the legitimate drug-trade is concerned, this statement is not true, whatever custom may prevail outside."

I wrote to the *Pharmaceutical Journal* intimating that in my experience of the retail wine vinegar had not been stocked, but dilute acetic acid was always supplied, and that I believed this to be a very widespread custom. In acknowledgment of my letter, the following comment appeared under "Answers":—"If, as you suggest, diluted acetic acid is sometimes supplied for white-wine vinegar, the practice is much to be regretted. Individuals who do so cannot be representative pharmacists."

Now, in the same issue, we find a "representative pharmacist" declaring that for fifty years he has "considered acetum dest. to mean white-wine vinegar, or distilled vinegar, and not dilute acetic acid." This is a little ambiguous, as distilled vinegar and wine vinegar are distinct products. Distilled vinegar may be white (colourless), but it is not wine vinegar. Wine vinegar is not distilled at all, and is not colourless, though it may be very pale. One is quite as liable to prosecution for supplying distilled vinegar as for supplying dilute acetic acid—in fact, the difference between the two is trifling, consisting of a slight vinegary odour and flavour present in the former, which is due to traces of volatile impurities. There is no doubt that a very small proportion of what has in the past been supplied to the public as white-wine vinegar has consisted of the genuine article made by oxidation of French wines.



I may add that I have examined a few vinegar purporting to be wine vinegars, and have found them in all cases to be spurious.

Yours, &c.

T. F. HARVEY, M.P.S.

[We are bound to say that we agree generally with the Editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*. We believe that diluted acetic acid is frequently sold as "white vinegar." Even this is probably illegal; but we think there cannot be any doubt of the illegality when it is sold as "white-wine vinegar." We agree with Mr. Harvey that it is equally illegal to sell distilled malt vinegar as wine vinegar.—ED. C. & D.]

#### Mutual Insurance among Pharmacists.

SIR,—We have read with much interest your article on this subject in last week's issue. For many years we have been of opinion that chemists ought to be able to protect themselves by insurance against loss through accidents caused in their establishments by carelessness or misadventure. With this idea we wrote in 1891 to all the principal accident insurance companies in the United Kingdom, asking whether they would undertake such risks, but in every case the reply was in the negative.

We believe that if the chemists of the United Kingdom (who number about 10,000) were to take up this question for their mutual benefit, the necessary capital could be easily obtained, and the undertaking would prove a financial success. The total number of accidents reported is surprisingly small; and we believe there is hardly a chemist of any standing either in the United Kingdom or the colonies who would not be glad to insure against such risks.

The fact that a chemist's business depends so much on the care with which it is conducted ought to be a sufficient guarantee that insurance companies would not have to pay for damage done wilfully, as is often the case in fire risks.

The success of the C.A.M.W.A.L. should encourage chemists to combine in a matter of this kind. For our own part we would not only gladly subscribe for shares, but we would insure ourselves for a considerable amount.

Yours faithfully,

WM. HARRINGTON & SON (LIMITED).

January 13.

STANLEY HARRINGTON, Director.

#### Beasley.

SIR,—In the notice of the tenth edition of Beasley's Druggists' General Receipt Book, your reviewer alludes to what he terms the "archaic" character of the photographic formulæ.

Although admitting the justice of his remarks in some cases, I may state that a photographic friend of very considerable experience, to whom I have shown the book, tells me that, with some exceptions, most of the formulæ are in general use. That the older formulæ in this case have not been replaced by more modern ones is due to the limitation of space necessitated by the retention throughout the book of so much of the old matter as was judged of value by those well qualified to give an opinion. May I suggest that the charge of antiquity cannot be brought against the microscopic formulæ, or the additions to the section on patent and proprietary medicines? As at the present day pharmacists are expected to undertake the analysis of urine, I have considerably enlarged the article on "Urine-testing," so that instead of two, it now occupies twelve pages.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

THE EDITOR OF THE TENTH EDITION OF BEASLEY'S  
GENERAL RECEIPT BOOK.

#### New Season's Cod-liver Oil.

SIR,—Your trade-report, dated December 24, gives the surprising information that good 1895 Lofoten oil is being offered. Allow me to inform your readers that not a barrel of 1896 Lofoten oil will be ready for export till the end of January at the very earliest. I rather doubt any Norwegian exporter will take the risk of offering Lofoten oil at 1895. For later delivery in the face of the following facts, viz:—(1) That nothing can be known yet as to the condition of the livers at Lofoten. (2) That the early winter fisheries have up till now been a failure. (3) That practically all

stocks of 1895 oil are now cleared. (4) That not a fisherman arrives on the fishing-grounds till the middle of January, and practically the fishing never commences till towards the end of January.

Yours truly,  
Tromsø, Norway,  
January 4.

JOH. RYE HOLMBOE.

[We can assure Mr. Holmboe that at least one of the Norwegian manufacturers was offering "1896" oil at the time mentioned by us, and at the price quoted.—ED. C. & D.]

#### Sealing-wax on Bottles.

SIR,—I don't doubt that "Charlesden's" apprentices could teach me a great many things, and, possibly, amongst others, the art of sucking eggs, but I knew of their method of extracting sealed corks before they were born. Unfortunately, it does not always succeed in hands less expert than theirs, and even where it does, a good deal of time is taken up, and a great litter is made on the counter, by one's having first to chip off all the wax that adheres to the lip of the bottle. This is of itself sufficiently objectionable. Since my former letter appeared, Messrs. Howards have very courteously informed me that their preparations can be had in capsuled bottles if so desired, a fact I had temporarily forgotten.

I am, &c.,

Post Office, Epworth,  
January 3.

C. C. BELL.

#### LEGAL QUERIES.

Immediate information on pharmaco-legal matters is available in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," *Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty,"* and *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*.

229/7. *B. H. G.* takes an apprentice for a term of four years. He is bound by indentures, his father pays half the premium the day he commences, and has to pay the remainder at a future date. "B. H. G." sells his business twelve months after the youth has been with him. Can the father claim the part-premium that he has already paid, as well as take the boy away? [Unless there is an express provision in the articles of apprenticeship the master is not entitled to transfer his apprentice to his successor. Moreover, it is a breach of the articles of apprenticeship for the master to relinquish the business, because the object of his apprenticeship is that the master shall personally teach his apprentice. Under the circumstances the father is justified in taking away his son, and he will be entitled to damages for breach of the apprenticeship-deed. The damages will doubtless take off a considerable slice of the premium paid on the commencement of the apprenticeship, and may possibly exceed that sum, without taking into account the costs. In the article on apprentices in the *DIARY* for 1896 attention is drawn to this contingency.]

240/11. *W. D. C.*—*Alpe* gives an instance of liability incurred by the statement on the handbill of a medicine not liable otherwise "(Prepared according to Dr. —'s prescription)" We should think, too, the proprietors of Brown's Bronchial Troches might have ground for action against you, if you use their title—not, perhaps, as a trade-mark, but on the ground that the public might be misled.

240/53. *Progress*.—You will find particulars of the process for obtaining a wine licence in the *DIARY*, 1896, pages 216 and 404.

246/48. *Explosive*.—You do not infringe the Explosives Act by making a mixture of chlorate of potash and nitre solutions with the object of making asthma-pads. The essential nature of a substance to bring it within the scope of the Act is that it is used or manufactured with a view to produce a practical effect by explosion or a pyrotechnic effect.



239/58. *Effervescing*.—The decision in the case of Attorney-General v. Lamplough was not to the effect that "all effervescing preparations are exempt from medicine-stamp duty," as you seem to understand. By it all saline mixtures of a composition similar to that of Lamplough's Saline escape duty; but if a more medicinal dose (as, for instance, caffeine, salicylate of soda, &c.) be introduced the duty is incurred. The liability of your preparation depends, therefore, on its composition.

239/65. *Vavas* has a customer who owed him an account, and, while that was owing, bought some perfume at his shop, paid for it, and got a receipt. When the account for the previous debt goes in the customer repudiates it, saying he has paid it, but has destroyed all receipts except the one for the perfume, which was his last transaction. What is the remedy? [This is purely a question of fact; no law is involved. If an action is brought in the County Court, and the chemist swears the bill has not been paid, while the customer as positively swears that it was, the Judge or jury will have to decide which party they believe.]

237/45. *Verax*.—We are not aware that there is any "usual commission" for managers. We think it a good plan for a widow to give a qualified manager a commission, but the amount is a matter of arrangement. A letter from your employing agreeing to a three months' notice engagement, if stamped with a 6d. agreement-stamp, would be a legal document.

238/61. *W. O.* asks:—"If a customer come into my shop for a bottle of Fellows's syrup or a bottle of Easton's syrup, is it necessary for the customer to sign the poison-book?" [This question recurs pretty frequently. Apparently our correspondents know the law, but do not quite fancy it. It is the case that the Pharmacy Act puts preparations of strychnine into the first part of the poisons schedule. When they are sold, therefore, the law requires that the sale should be entered in the poison-book and signed for by the purchaser.]

241/13. *Tenax*.—You might take out a judgment summons for the committal of the debtor if you think you can satisfy the Judge that he can pay but will not. If you fail to give that proof your money will be lost.

7/30. *Styrax* asks how the following are affected by the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts:—Belladonna plasters, cannabis indica in corn-cures, tinct. hyoscyam., chloroform in cough-mixtures in minute quantities, hyd. subchlor. [We can scarcely understand how such a question can be addressed to us by anyone connected with the drug-trade. The schedule of poisons is given in the DIARY, and "Styrax" ought to get our "Pharmacy and Poisons Law" (2s. 6d.) and read it carefully. There is no mention of Indian hemp, henbane, or calomel in the schedule. Belladonna plasters are, of course, preparations of belladonna, and as such must be treated as poisons in the second part of the schedule. Chloroform is also a poison in the second part of the schedule. We should not ourselves label a mixture containing only a few drops of chloroform "Poison," but we have no authority to grant our correspondent dispensation.]

246/11. *Carboy*.—You might perhaps obtain an injunction against your rival if you could convince a Court that by adopting a title for his pharmacy similar to that which you have been using customers were likely to be deceived. It is impossible to form an opinion on the case unless you tell us exact details.

245/61. *Little Pill*.—A 600-gr. weight is not one of the standard denominations, and the inspector would be right in refusing to verify it.

244/73. *T. S. P.*—You are eligible for the Minor examination (if you have passed the Preliminary or its equivalent), having been engaged three years in compounding physicians' prescriptions. You must make a declaration to that effect, and if it is endorsed by a registered medical practitioner or chemist and druggist it will be accepted.

## MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

Back numbers containing formulae, educational or other specific information can be obtained from the Publisher.

N.B.—All queries should be accompanied by the business card of a subscriber, or the address label from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST wrapper. We destroy anonymous letters. We do not answer queries of the kind here dealt with by post. We ask that separate queries shall be written on separate sheets of paper.

223/42. *T. Bidie*.—(1) The "Shipmaster's Medical Guide," by W. J. Smith, F.R.C.S., is published by Griffin at 6s. This is one of the best books. (2) Lin. opii must be supplied for Opodeldoc in ships' medicine-chests. That is by order of the Board of Trade.

238/28. *A. W. L.*—You will find a Poultry-spice formula in our issue of November 2, 1895, page 679. This, with the addition of ferri sulph. 3ss., will make an excellent egg-producing stimulant.

223/49. *Espeetans* wants a Hair dye which will give an iron-grey tone to the hair. We do not know anything which will do that. Our correspondent overlooks the fact that the properties of hair-dyes are limited, and that they have to be applied to the heads of living persons; consequently, they must be immediate in effect, and as free as possible from nastiness. These circumstances create limitations beyond which it is useless to proceed, and we are practically confined to the use of lead, silver, and other metals which give brown and black tones, and are influenced by exposure to light.

226/51. *Wick*.—There is nothing to prevent you selling a mixture of benzol and benzoline as benzene.

234/45. *Carica* has made a Cough-linctus with ext. pruni virg., oxymel scillæ, &c., and there is a heavy precipitate which filtration through a flannel has not removed. How should he clear it? A common mistake in regard to such mixtures is the attempt to filter the whole of them, when gravitation will clear at least 90 per cent., and all that remains to be filtered is 10 per cent. "Carica" should set the linctus aside for a few days; if the sediment falls slowly, it may be hastened by adding some asbestos. Then decant the clear portion, and pass the rest through a thin felt bag, returning the filtrate until it comes away clear. The return of the filtrate is the best plan for treating mixtures containing very fine precipitates, as the suspended matter forms a layer upon the felt, and becomes the best possible filtering medium.

234/57. *Fish*.—The only way of keeping down the smell of the decaying fish is to sprinkle it freely with lime containing about 1 in 1,000 of permanganate of potash. Your customer adopts, however, the best plan of keeping the material as a Manure—viz., burying it.

231/41. *Nemo*.—In "The Microscope and How to Use it: A Handbook for Beginners," by T. Charters White (R. Sutton & Co., 2s.) you will find a useful chapter upon photo-micrography.

256/39. *R. L. M.*—In Holmes's "Botanical Note-book" (Christy, 3s.) and Oliver's "Botany" (Macmillan, 4s. 6d.) you will find instructions for preparing herbarium specimens. You can buy a vasculum for about 3s. 6d., but prices vary according to size and material.



229/70. *W. B.*—Spirit Gum.—This is a formula which we have published before:—Common resin, 5j.; castor oil, 3ss.; spirit to ʒiv. Dissolve and filter. It may be improved by the addition of a few drops of essential oil. (2) There is no use your keeping one or two numbers of Grease paints. As a rule the more rarely used numbers are wanted in the provinces. You ought to have at least two of the following kinds (they are numbered from 1 to 20):—1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 3½ and 20 grease-paint short sticks, black, old brown, middle and dark blue long liners; carmine, Nos. 1 and 2 small liners; 6d. sticks cocoa-butter; 6d. sticks lip-salve. All Leichner's make.

228/56. *Methyl.*—As you are aware, it is illegal to remove the wood-naphtha and paraffin oil from methylated spirit, and we do not think it would be wise to publish any process for so doing. Moreover, our space is too valuable to be taken up by "settling a dispute between two gentlemen connected with the trade."

263/2. *C. N.*—The Westminster College of Pharmacy lends microscope-slides to Minor students. You may get the terms from the College on application.

237/12. *F. D.*—Salaries of assistants in wholesale drug-houses are about the same as in the retail—e.g., 70l. to 80l. (outdoors) to commence with.

237/69. *Solicitors.*—We cannot advise you in the case. Better get the man to consult a doctor, if a tonic of 30 mins. tr. ferri perchlor. in 4 oz. water thrice daily does not benefit him.

261/29. *Ferrunsite.*—We are told that there is a Ferro-site or Ferrunsite made from furnace-slag for flagging pavements, but that is somewhat outside our line, and we are unable to give you special information.

234/3. *Mizpah* asks:—"What is best to use for quickly taking off the old coatings or accumulations of russet-cream on boots and shoes?" [Spirit of turpentine freely applied with a brush.]

233/25 *Cinnamon.*—We cannot give you further information about the addition of glycerine to water for Heating Churches, except that the proportion of glycerine is 1 to 5 of water. It is solely for the purpose of preventing freezing, and, considering that glycerine itself froze to a solid last winter, it cannot be altogether relied upon. Still, it is the best addition we know of. The best thing is for the church officers to keep some fire on always during excessively cold weather.

232/24 *Cheshire.*—Surely you can have little difficulty in selecting a suitable Cough mixture from the dozens of formulae published in the first three issues of 1895?

232/26 *Laboratory.*—Chloroform is the best thing for Keeping Infusions fresh for a day or two, but instead of that we think it better to bring the infusion to the boil, and while hot fill sterilised 8-oz. bottles with the infusion, right to the top, and cover with bladder. Read what has been printed on this subject in the last few numbers.

232/4. *Musk.*—Really, now, is it fair to expect us to tell you how to stain and varnish a fiddle? We are pharmacists, not fiddle-makers.

246/9. *Tabloid.*—We can hardly see our way to the admission of a correspondence on the terms of business adopted by a particular firm.

## INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor invites, on behalf of inquiring subscribers, postcard replies to the following:—

228/68. What is syrupus cujuav?

239/18. What is Healy's paste, used for eczema?

244/33. Maker or agent for scientific toys.

189/18. Villon's acaroin: where obtainable or information regarding it?

## INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

For this section we are always glad to receive from subscribers brief notes on practical subjects, recipes which have been found good in practice or which have required modification, and hints or fresh ideas on any pharmaceutical or trade matter.

Preserving Cornish Cream.—Some time ago you advised me to use boric or salicylic acid for the preservation of Cornish cream. I had a supply which I covered with a strong solution of salt, and found that it kept sweet for a fortnight without rendering it salty at all.

EBONA. (247/11.)

## Next Week.

Monday, January 20:

Royal Photographic Society, 12 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. "On Irregular Grained Screens," by Mr. E. Sanger Shepherd.

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C. "Alternate Current Transformers," Cantor Lecture, by Dr. J. A. Fleming, F.R.S. At 8 P.M.

Tuesday, January 21.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association, Mason College, Birmingham, at 8.30 P.M. Mr. F. Smith, on "The Sun and his Family" (postponed from January 14).

Wednesday, January 22.

Western Chemists' Association, smoking-concert at the Westbourne Restaurant, 1 Craven Road, W., at 8.30 P.M. precisely.

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, at 9.15 P.M. Mr. T. C. Clarke on "My Experiences of the Minor."

Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society, University College, at 8.30 P.M. Dr. J. R. Logan on "Albumen and its Allies."

Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association, 94 West Regent Street, at 9.15 P.M. Short papers by members.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, ball and musical promenade at the Hulme Town Hall. Promenade at 8 P.M., dancing at 8.30.

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C. "Supply of Sea-water to London," by Mr. Frank W. Grierson. At 8 P.M.

Thursday, January 23.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street, W.C., at 8.30 P.M. Dr. Juler, F.R.C.S., on "The Structure of the Human Eye and the Action of Certain Drugs upon it."

Chemical Society, Burlington House, W., at 8 P.M. Helmholtz Memorial Lecture, by Professor G. F. Fitzgerald, F.R.S.

Liverpool Chemists' Association, at 7 P.M. "The Illuminating Power of Hydrocarbons," by Edward Davies, F.C.S. F.I.C., illustrated with experiments.

Friday, January 24.

Aberdeen Junior Chemists' Association, 21 Bridge Street, at 9.30 P.M. Mr. W. Pennie on "The Chemist's Apprentice."

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association, 36 York Place, at 9.15 P.M. Mr. Alexander Sutherland on "The Irreducible Minimum: A Study."